

THE
CHIRURGICAL WORKS
OF
BENJAMIN GOOCH,
SURGEON;
A NEW EDITION,
WITH HIS LAST CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS.
IN THREE VOLUMES.
VOL. III.
CONTAINING
MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL OBSERVATIONS:
WITH
A GENERAL INDEX TO THE WHOLE.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR J. JOHNSON, IN ST. PAUL'S-
CHURCH-YARD.

MDCCXCII.



TO THE
GOVERNORS
OF THE
NORFOLK AND NORWICH
HOSPITAL.

GENTLEMEN,

I TAKE the liberty of addressing these miscellaneous papers to you, as a testimony of the grateful sense I entertain of the honour which the society unanimously conferred upon me, in my absence, and without my desire, at a very full general board, on October the 9th, 1771, by appointing me consulting-surgeon, pursuant to the rules and orders established for the government of the hospital.

From the principle which originally actuated me, in my inferior station, to promote this establishment to the utmost of my power, it affords me a pleasure supe-

rior to every other temporal consideration to observe how it prospers in your hands ; and its thriving is not to be doubted, as the nature of the institution extends, in so signal a manner, to the relief and benefit of the miserable in their several distresses.

This very excellent charity will certainly reward the benevolent intentions of its generous supporters, and give the sincerest satisfaction to all who zealously exert themselves in the good work.

I am, with the greatest regard,

Gentlemen,

Your most obliged

And most obedient servant,

B. GOOCH.

A short

*A short Account of the Rise and Progress
of the NORFOLK and NORWICH Hos-
PITAL, &c.*

THE late lord bishop of Norwich * formed a plan for this purpose in the year 1759 ; but then an unexpected incident prevented its being carried into execution, and it lay dormant till it was lately revived, and vigorously prosecuted, by persons of his beneficent disposition, who were encouraged to expect that success would attend the revival of it, from the concern shown, by people of all ranks, at

* At his lordship's desire I visited all the great hospitals in London with the utmost attention ; and procured, by the very friendly and obliging behaviour and assistance of the surgeons there and in other places, every necessary intelligence and information I possibly could to communicate to him on this occasion.—See the preface to the second volume.

the former disappointment, ardently wishing to see an establishment of such public utility brought to perfection ; and, after some preparatory steps, a meeting was held upon this occasion, on August the 1st, 1770, which proved so auspicious as to encourage the society to lay the foundation of the building in February, 1771, the situation of which is pleasant, and in the best air, at a proper distance from the city.

Through the activity and attention of the managers, the building was carried on so speedily, that it was fit for the attendance of the physicians and surgeons to assist out-patients on July the 11th, 1772 ; and by November the 7th, of the same year, provision was made for the reception of some in-patients.

I believe it may also be truly said, to the honour of this county and city, that such liberality and quick progress, in effecting this design, have not been exceeded, if equalled, in any other place in this king-

dom, at a distance from the metropolis ; and particular regard has been paid to a point of the utmost consequence, which is, having the wards lofty and airy *.

Very

* The wards are of different sizes, and all 15 feet high ; they are kept very neat and clean, not crowded with beds, and well ventilated, by having the convenience of letting down the upper parts of the sashes occasionally in the wards and in the galleries communicating with them ; which is done every day for a due time, when the weather will admit of it : and it is observed by all people who enter these wards, that there is not the least offensiveness ; particular care having also been taken in respect to the adjacent necessaries, which has effectually obviated any complaint on that account.

In a conversation relative to hospitals, which I formerly had with my worthy friend doctor Hunter, consulting-physician to the Brownlow-street hospital, he told me there were two wards of equal length and breadth, one directly over the other, but the upper some feet lower than the other, in which the same number of patients were lodged in similar circumstances ; and that it was observed more died in the upper than in the lower. This difference of success could not at first be accounted for, but upon farther consideration, it was apprehended it might arise from

Very judicious regulations have likewise been established by the society, not only in selecting the ablest and most experienced principal surgeons, but assistant surgeons also regularly educated ; as it is an object of the greatest concernment to have such substitutes to supply the place of the principals, when indispensable engagements prevent their attendance.

By these precautions and observances, the patients will of course be properly attended, and subscriptions not discouraged through suggestions of any neglect : and by thus providing the hospital with surgeons in its infant state, there is the greatest probability of perpetuating a succession, in the most unexceptionable manner, with the judgment and authority of the governors, to support the credit and reputation of it when it arrives at a state of maturity.

the greater impurity of the air they breathed, consequently the number of patients was lessened in the upper ward, and then they did as well in that as in the other.

Hitherto

Hitherto the success of the practice here has answered every expectation, by the assiduity of the judicious gentlemen, who engaged to attend *gratis* on this meritorious occasion: and particular care is taken to oblige the nurses to perform their duty diligently, upon which much depends, by the superintendence of the matron, who acts in her department to the credit and utility of the institution, in a very exemplary manner*.

By the records of the Winchester hospital, (which was the first that was founded upon voluntary contribution out of London, in the year 1736, through the zeal and activity of doctor Alured Clarke) it appears, that soon after its establishment, out of 872 patients admitted, there were no more than 59 whose cases, in the opinion of the physicians and surgeons, would not have allowed of removal a great many miles, without doing them any injury: hence,

* Mrs. West.

should

should it be apprehended by persons charitably inclined, who dwell in the extreme parts of the county, that their subscriptions could not be well and satisfactorily answered, on account of the remote distance, there is good reason to hope this consideration should have weight sufficient to remove such prepossession effectually, and determine them to subscribe; more especially as there are now easy and safe conveyances coming weekly from every part of the county to Norwich, where the hospital is placed: and as a farther argument to remove this objection, provision is expressly made, by the rules and orders of the hospital, that the recommendations of those at the greatest distance shall have the preference, in cases of equal exigence *.

The

* Institutions of this nature are evidently worthy the particular attention and consideration of parishes, as undoubtedly they would find their account, and be amply recompensed in subscribing to the support of them out of their public stock; for it may reasonably
be

The same worthy gentleman, who was instrumental in founding the hospital at Winchester, when he became dean of Exeter, exerted himself with the like zeal and alacrity in promoting such an establishment there, and his exertion was attended with the same success. His amiable character and benevolent disposition, I was made acquainted with in his life time, by a gentleman of equal merit and virtue, his intimate and my very good friend, at whose house I once met him: and our worthy dean, the Rev. doctor Lloyd, has not shown less zeal on this occasion.

According to the Transactions of the Devon and Exeter hospital, several very sensible and inquisitive men, who turned

be supposed, that there is scarce any one parish, though ever so small, but will have, in the course of a year, a pauper so afflicted, as to become a proper object of an hospital provision, in a case where nursing only, with other incidental charges, will amount to more than a subscription to procure every thing necessary to his cure in the most unexceptionable and best manner.

their

their thoughts with particular attention to this subject, were of opinion, that half the poor of this kingdom die of diseases which might be cured, were timely and proper assistance given them.

Were it necessary, this might be offered as a cogent argument and incentive to encourage and promote institutions of this nature: for in what place are they so likely to find such advantages to recover their health, as in an hospital well governed and regulated, where all due care is taken to have the benefit of suitable diet, pure air, cleanliness, and every other requisite, without having the wards crowded with patients? This last article is materially necessary to be observed, the neglect of which in some hospitals, both at home and abroad, has been productive of deleterious effects, as must inevitably be the consequence of breathing in an impure atmosphere, so contaminated with the effluvia of morbid bodies; tending also to the discredit of the institution, and the gentlemen appointed to

to take care of the sick and lame *. And those who are improper subjects for admission into this asylum, may have the best advice and medicines without expence, to keep them from falling into the hands of bold quacks and ignorant pretenders.

In this respect the empress of Russia has taken particular care, as I have been informed by the late doctor Monsey's letters, who was long physician to her imperial majesty, and in high esteem.

Here permit me to introduce a few historical anecdotes, upon the authority of that

* Mr. Aikin's judicious and well written Dissertation on Hospitals, demands attentive reading and consideration by all concerned in the government and management of hospitals, that they may effectually answer the end and design proposed.

From the inevitable distresses of the poor, owing to a combination of causes, institutions of this nature become more and more necessary.—*Salus populi suprema lex esto.*

gentle-

gentleman's letters, which I used to read with great pleasure. He said this wise princess would not suffer any person to appear publicly in the character of a *quack*, in all her extensive dominions, nor allow an apothecary to practise till authorized by a proper examination.

The doctor was educated at the university of Edinburgh; and, after practising many years in the Russian army, with great reputation, he settled at Moscow, where he was in very extensive business when called to court, without any solicitation on his part, or intimation of the honour intended him; and purely on account of his distinguished merit and abilities in his profession, was appointed archiater, and had many other marks of royal favour conferred upon him.

When he signified to her majesty his desire of resigning the very fatiguing business, in which he had long been engaged, in order to spend the remnant of his days
in

in ease and retirement in his native country, she was graciously pleased to grant his request, and generously settled upon him a handsome pension: and, in a very friendly and affable manner, upon his taking leave of her, she thus expressed her regard and esteem for him. " Doctor!" says she, " we should have been glad to have kept you with us, but I am sensible of our attachments to our own country.—You know I am poor, but were my finances equal to my inclination and your merit, your long, good and faithful services, should be better rewarded.—Adieu, God preserve you every where."

PREFACE:

P R E F A C E.

THESE miscellaneous papers correspond with my original design of being as useful as I can to my young brethren, and may be considered as a supplement to my former publication.

“ In every work regard the writer’s end,

“ Not free from faults, nor yet too vain to mend.”

Pope’s Essay on Criticism.

This motive induces me, without any other apology, to begin with earnestly proposing to the consideration of such gentlemen who are destined to a situation, which requires their exercising both branches of the medical art, not only to make observations and remarks accurately upon all extraordinary

I ordinary

ordinary cafes occurring in their practice ; but alfo to take minutes of memorable epidemic difeafes, which the different feafons produce, with the ftate of the weather at thofe times, and the moft fuccefsful methods of cure ; following the great lord Bacon's advice, *De Aug. Scientiarum*, Lib. II. *de Re Medica* *.

We

* It is not my defign to engage in any hypothefis, or advance speculative notions, nor inquire nicely into the remote or proximate caufes of the difeafes mentioned in the following fheets ; which kind of procedure has involved and bewildered many, and led them into inextricable mazes ; but to relate matters of fact truly and faithfully, and as concifely as poffible, not to be obfcure ; leaving abftrufe matters to more curious inveftigators.

Qui Speculantur non medentur.

Our great countryman Wifeman, who was ferjeant-furgeon to king Charles the Second, tells us, in his Epiftle Dedicatory to his excellent chirurgical Works, that he employed his time, when confined with illnefs, in writing them : I have fo far followed his example, but I do not think that my productions can prove of fuch public utility and advantage ; however, I have

b

done

We have examples of illustrious men, in all ages and countries, from the time of Hippocrates ; and in this nation Sydenham and Huxham have most distinguished themselves to excite young gentlemen of the faculty to these observances, which, with an attentive reading the best practical books, will prove the most effectual method of assisting them in forming their judgments to direct their practice upon various important occasions, for the greater safety of their patients, as well as for the advancement and support of their own reputation, which must appear objects of the highest concernment and most interesting nature that can be offered to their consideration *.

I have

done my best under the like predicament, when lately confined some months with a dangerous disease, as I had also done before.

Qui non est hodie, cras minus aptus erit.

* Some eminent and learned physicians of the past and present age have written upon endemic or popular diseases,

I have reflected with regret, upon not having observed, and regularly pursued, what I now strongly recommend to be early attended to by others: and I did not want opportunities for such purposes, in a country situation, with a large circle of business, where I was obliged to act in the capacity of a physician as well as a surgeon, more than thirty years, to which I closely applied myself.

diseases, in particular countries where their practice gave them opportunities of making observations; as Prosper Alpinus, in Egypt: Gulielmus Piso, in the West Indies: Jacobus Bontius, in the East Indies: Sir Hans Sloane, in Jamaica: Towne, at Barbadoes: Cleghorn, at Minorca, and some others, whose writings are in great esteem, and many of their remarks applicable to diseases which frequently occur in this island. To these may very deservedly be added, Dr. O'Connell's *Observationes Medicinales*, &c. which he dedicated to doctor Mead. He was many years a practitioner of great repute at Cork, in Ireland. The *Edinburgh Medical Essays*, in six volumes; those since published there under the title of *Essays physical and literary*; the *Medical Transactions of the College of Physicians*, and the *London Medical Observations and Inquiries*, should be in the hands of every practitioner.

Upon publishing my *Opusculum* a few years ago, I received a letter from Sir John Pringle, physician to the queen, and president of the Royal Society *, encouraging me to pursue the same plan: and this worthy gentleman, still honouring me with

* Sprat's History of our illustrious Royal Society may be truly said to contain the *utile dulci*, and will certainly recompense the inquisitive reader's perusal with pleasure and profit. Among other observable things, there is a curious account of the ancient manner of embalming dead bodies in the island of Teneriffe, communicated by a physician who resided and practised there many years.

Soon after the establishment of this society, the example was followed at Paris, by instituting the Acad. Roy. des Sciences: and towards the conclusion of the same century, another institution of the like nature, to promote knowledge in arts and sciences, was founded at Leipsic, the publications of which are intitled *Acta Eruditorum*. Another society has been established at the university of Edinburgh, as in many other parts of Europe, for prosecuting natural philosophy, &c. the first volume of which was published in 1758, intitled *Essays and Observations physical and literary*, after the Medical Society there had published six volumes of *Medical Essays* with universal approbation.

his friendship and correspondence, I thought myself under an indispensable obligation, after having digested the following papers, to communicate the heads of them to him; requesting his candid opinion in respect to the publication of them. In consequence of this request, he favoured me with a very friendly answer, and useful remarks, earnestly encouraging me to publish them, giving me leave to make use of his name on this occasion; and, by his approbation, they are brought to light.

Should these hints and communications answer my original design, I shall be amply rewarded; remembering Lucan's precept, which should never be forgotten,

Nec sibi sed toti genitum se credere mundo.

Shottisham,
August the 1st, 1773.

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M E D I C A L
OBSERVATIONS.

*A brief account of the most considerable
EPIDEMICS which prevailed in the
year 1739-40, 41 and 42, with some
observations and remarks.*

IN the latter part of the summer, and
in the autumnal season of the year
1739, the weather was uncommonly warm,
calm, and sultry, with a moist atmosphere
even when it did not rain. This disposi-
tion of the air produced a fever of a putrid
and malignant nature, of which many
died: some had eruptions and others not;
but the time of their appearance in the
course of the disease, was very precarious
and the crisis as uncertain*.

It

* Hippocrates in his Epidemics, his learned Com-
mentator Galen, and writers of every age and climate,
VOL. III. B have

It is not my design to enter minutely into the nature and cause of this fever. Upon the invasion of it the pulse in general was found not much too quick, but unequal and often depressed. The blood was then florid, with a loose cohesion, and in the progress of the disease, it frequently acquired a gelatinous appearance, with little or no separation of the serum from the crassamentum: and at its height the crasis of it was more dissolved, sometimes resembling molasses in colour and consistence. Then the eruptions put on a purple or livid hue, and spasms with delirium commonly soon supervened, and closed the scene in death.

It is a matter which requires great consideration and judgment, in order to determine the propriety or impropriety of bleeding in fevers of this kind even at first,

have observed, that such a state of the air has been productive of putrid and malignant fevers.—Read the celebrated Dr. Mead's *Monita Medica Præcepta*, § 9, upon epidemic fevers.

though

though some symptoms may then seem to indicate this evacuation *.—As the greater part of those who were attacked with this fever were people of the lower rank, many were indiscriminately bled at every stage of the disease by ignorant persons, who make a trade of bleeding in the country, without having any manner of medical knowledge to direct them in a step of such importance. By this unhappy practice a great many evidently suffered, but it gave me opportunities of examining the state of the blood, as I was frequently called in, at different times of the disease; from whence I drew some useful inferences to regulate my practice.

From what I observed in the fever now under consideration, almost as much care was necessary in respect to purging as to bleeding: also confining the patients in close rooms, and hot in bed, endeavouring

* See the dreadful effects of bleeding, &c. in fevers of this nature, in a letter from a practitioner at Senegal to Dr. Brocklesby, in the London Med. Obs. & Inq. Vol. II.

to force sweats, by any means, was found very pernicious; but the frequent and cautious admission of pure fresh air proved as beneficial, in the course of the disease, which often instantaneously comforted and sensibly revived the patients, when almost expiring for want of it; proving more vivifying than any cordial medicine.

The most successful method of treating this fever in general, from my own attentive observation, supported by that of judicious practitioners with whom I held correspondence, was to clear the stomach at first with a vomit of ipecacoanha, adding to it a grain or two of tart. emetic. and when that did not operate also sufficiently by stool, as it frequently did, then a mild purge was given to empty the primæ viæ.

In the progress of the disease, such laxatives as operated with the least commotion and disturbance were necessary, to prevent the ill consequences proceeding from too long retention of putrid fæces, &c.; and to
answer

answer many salutary purposes, lenient clysters were occasionally given and frequently repeated with safety, at any time of the disease, when it seemed not advisable to give purging medicines †.

† Ol. Ricini, commonly called Castor Oil, seems a very important acquisition to the materia medica. I have experienced its good effects in my own valetudinary state attended with costiveness, &c., and think it an excellent remedy superior to all of that class.— See Dr. Frazer's account in the London Medical Observations and Inquiries, Vol. II. and Doctor Canvane's Dissertation concerning the use and virtues of this medicine.

The following mixture made with this oil is agreeable to the stomach, and I have found it well answer my own purpose, by taking two or three spoonfuls at bed-time, occasionally, in costiveness, even when I have had the piles attended with bleeding.

R Ol. ricini ℥iss,
 Vitel. ovi parum:
probe contritis in mortario marmorea
add. sensim
 Aq. menth. piper. simp.
 Cinnam. simp. a ℥ij,
 Syrup. rosar. solutiv. ℥ss: m.

From what I have been sensible of myself in the use of this oil, it acts more by lubricating than stimulating the intestinal canal.

Saline draughts, with a small quantity of pulv. contrayerv. comp., were advantageously given, and temperate cordials, as circumstances required.

The diet most grateful and proper was of the liquid, farinaceous kind, with the addition of orange or lemon juice.

The most beneficial common drinks were acescent and subacid liquors; as cyder-whey, barley-water acidulated with vegetable or mineral acids, &c., and, for those who could afford it, whey made with old hock or rhenish wine was recommended †.

† When Sir J. P——r's groom left his master at Constantinople, and declared himself a Doctor, a putrid or malignant fever raged there and in the neighbourhood. He indulged his patients with a pleasant beverage like small punch, more than commonly acid, of which he allowed them to drink liberally, which was the principal medicine he administered: and the success of his practice gained him fame and wealth; of which I received an authentic account from his master.

The

The Bark proved of singular service in many instances, more especially where the eruptions had an ill aspect, joining with it elix. vitrioli: and now good red port-wine mixt with water, and made grateful to the palate and stomach with juice of Seville orange, sugar, and a little spice, was found to be one of the best of cordials, taken moderately warm.

When nervous symptoms supervened they were treated with appropriate medicines, according as the nature and appearance of them directed: and in delirium with a feeble irregular pulse, blistering, particularly of the head, sometimes proved of singular service.

The following is a most dreadful instance of the malignity of this fever, and none equal to it, in all respects, came under my notice during this epidemic season.

I was called to a poor lad about twelve years of age on the fifth day of the disease,

B 4

when

when he had been freely bled and purged, His pulse was very languid, quick and irregular, and he was not perfect in his senses. Besides petechial eruptions of an unfavourable complexion, he had flattish tumours of a purple colour, and of various sizes over the bones of his arms and legs, in different parts of them, exquisitely painful to the touch, and the depressions made with my fingers rose very slowly; they had a puffy emphysematous feeling, something like what is observed upon the scalp from external injuries, where the pericranium is separated from the cranium by extravasated blood.

The day after my first visit he was seized with spasmodic affections and became more delirious. Soon after, a stupor came on, and next morning he expired in strong convulsions, which was the seventh day of the disease.

Had there appeared to me the least prospect of his recovery, I should have opened the tumours directly, but immediately after
his

his death I obtained leave to do so, and found extravasations of blood in a state of dissolution, as I suspected, in all of them, between the inflamed periosteum and the bones †.

This fever raged about two months, and totally ceased upon the coming on of the

† In the malignant small-pox, and fevers of that kind, where the natural cohesion of the blood is destroyed, the vessels are apt to burst, having lost their elastic power necessary to carry on the circulation.

Whenever tumours happen in consequence of such diseases with a fluid under the periosteum, they require the most speedy opening, in order to prevent the bones being affected, as well as other bad consequences, likely to proceed from the absorption of matter so virulent and corrosive. Sometimes in these cases the bones are originally affected to a great degree, as happened to a young lady I was desired to visit some time ago, after the danger of the small-pox itself appeared to be over. She had the left os malæ, quite into the orbit of the eye, and down to the alveoli, out of which the teeth were ready to drop, carious to such a degree as might very truly be called a sphacelus of the bone, and she died soon after I saw her, though she had been properly treated and taken the bark liberally, under the direction of an experienced surgeon.

frost

frost at Christmas; of which I am going to give a short account.

A short account of the hard winter in the Year 1739-40, which was the severest in the memory of man.

The frost began on Christmas-Eve, ushered in by the most piercing N. E. wind I ever felt. It proved very severe the following night, and next morning the hedges and trees were covered to an extraordinary thickness with hoariness like snow. It continued to an intense degree till the beginning of February, during which space of time but a small quantity of snow fell, compared with what had been observed in some temperate winters; and the air was generally serene. February the 2d, wind S. E. the frost appeared as if it was about breaking up; but in two or three days it returned with almost its former violence, the wind N. E. On the 20th it began to thaw again. 22d it rained a little. 24th it

it froze moderately, and so continued till the 27th, when it rained plentifully; after which time it froze no more to any considerable degree.

In the month of March, and till the 21st of April, the weather was exceedingly cold. That day, about five in the morning, it began to snow, and snowed incessantly till two in the afternoon. The air still continued very cold, wind in general N. N. E. On the 4th of May, in the afternoon, it began to rain, and after about two hours, snow and hail were intermixt with the rain; then snow fell alone, and continued to do so the greater part of the next day. The morning after, the snow was many inches deep upon the level ground; it soon dissolved and the air became serene and mild, wind S. S. W.

The summer succeeding this hard winter was uncommonly cold, dry and unfruitful. The winter after was severer than many of the preceding, with great falls of snow.

The

The following summer proved hotter than ordinary, and the autumn warm and rainy; from which time till Christmas the weather was very variable.

Though during the severity of the frost, people in general were healthy, yet upon the thaw towards the spring, pleuritic and peripneumonic disorders and coughs were more rife than ordinary, at this season of the year, when the piercing N. E. winds commonly prevail, productive of such complaints by obstructing perspiration; but they now yielded to bleeding and the usual antiphlogistic method, &c. nothing peculiar appearing in their nature to require different treatment, paying due attention to age, constitution, &c.

In order to preserve my proposed series of observations, I cannot avoid the repetition of what I have mentioned in my former publication, relative to a fever accompanied with a tumour of the face of such a kind

as I never had seen or read any description of, vulgarly called the *mumps*.

Of the MUMPS.

This epidemic appeared early in the summer after the preceding pulmonary disorders went off, increasing as the weather grew hotter; and it was chiefly among children and young persons. It was a disease truly of the inflammatory kind, without having the febrile symptoms run very high, nor was it of a dangerous nature; I had a great many patients of it but not one died. The swellings of the face, neck and throat, whence the disease derived its name, began soon after its invasion, and sometimes they increased in a few days to an enormous size, the skin appearing of a little deeper colour than a damask rose; they were in general attended with but little pain; seldom terminated in abscesses, and when they had that termination, upon opening they healed kindly by the common treatment.

The

The general antiphlogistic method succeeded, and the patients bore bleeding, purging and nitrous medicines very well. In some a thickness and hardness of the parotid and maxillary glands remained, after they were well in all other respects, which yielded readily to small doses of merc. dulc., interposing a gentle purge at due intervals; and sometimes, besides keeping the parts warm, I used a liniment prepared with unguent. cœruleum mitius & liniment. volatil., confining the patient within doors and to a proper regimen, during the mercurial course.

In five or six adults the tumefaction of the face, &c. subsided in a few days, and then I observed the morbid matter was immediately translated to the testes, where the tumors were attended with more pain and cured with more difficulty; but all the patients for whom I was concerned, wherein this metastasis occurred, were cured by the same method, without its ending in suppuration.

This

This disease prevailed all the summer-season, and did not entirely disappear till autumn 1741, which was almost a year and half from its first appearance about ten miles south of the city of Norwich, where I then dwelt ||.

A fever of another kind.

Soon after the disappearance of the last epidemic, another was introduced, which, though sometimes attended with eruptions, yet was evidently of the inflammatory species, and yielded to the general treatment of inflammatory diseases.

This disease seized men, women, and children, of all ages and constitutions, but those of sanguine habits most violently. At the first seizure the symptoms in general were coldness and shivering, pain of the

|| I have several times since observed a slight fever, attended with some degree of tumefaction upon the face, &c. called also the *mumps*, but it differed from the disease here described in many respects.

head, lassitude, faintness, oppression of the breast, short and quick breathing, a pulse remarkably depressed, with sickness and vomiting; and in the progress of the disease some had eruptions, as fiery red spots of different sizes, others had an universal efflorescence, and others what much resembled a rash, all which seemed to be of the same affinity; and some became delirious even early in the disease, when bleeding was omitted at first.

After bleeding, according to the strength of the patient, a vomit was given, then a gentle purge, keeping the bowels open with the most lenient purgatives or clysters throughout the disease; and it was often found necessary to repeat bleeding two or three times. After these evacuations, blistering in delirious cases was of singular service, more especially on the head, but it was observed to be detrimental when recourse was had to it before. The patients bore nitrous remedies very well; and draughts prepared with sal. absinth. succ. limon.

limon. &c. were found very beneficial in case of sickness and vomiting: and the general antiphlogistic method and cool regimen, diluting freely with proper liquors, answered so well, that few died who were regularly treated, from the beginning, after this manner. Some who in the course of this disease were attacked with pleuritic and pulmonic complaints, I found it necessary to bleed and repeat that evacuation, even in the height of the disease, though attended at the same time with eruptions; and I have good reason to believe, I saved the lives of many by this means, notwithstanding the prevailing opinion was against it, under an apprehension that the eruptions would retreat, in consequence of bleeding, and the patients suffer: however, I never omitted recommending it earnestly under these circumstances, when I thought the pulse would bear it, and it seldom or never failed of answering my expectation; for what was deemed malignity, discouraging others from this practice, I considered as proceeding from a state of blood

highly inflammatory; and the great siziness of it verified my opinion.

From these considerations and appearances, I rarely gave cordial medicines, and when indicated, under some particular circumstances, I found julep. è camphora preferable to any other.

I was called to several persons many days after they had been seized with this disease, and treated with cordial medicines and the hot regimen, without evacuations, from the mistaken notion I have mentioned, and without producing any kind of eruption; though the fever was raised to a high degree by this management, and of course all the symptoms aggravated. In these cases I did not hesitate in respect to bleeding and gentle purging; and soon after these evacuations, and the observance of a cool regimen, eruptions appeared, which sensibly relieved the patients, and they recovered, though before apparently in the most imminent danger. Here my opinion and
practice

practice met with great opposition ; but the success silenced my opponents.

I observed many at the first attack had a very languid pulse and often scarce to be felt. Some had a propensity to sweat at the beginning of the disease ; but then sweating seemed prejudicial ; afterwards, if not forced, it proved beneficial when arising in consequence of plentiful dilution, &c. *

A remarkable case demonstrating the good effect of bleeding in this fever.

I was called to a farmer's servant, an athletic young man of a very sanguine habit, who was seized with this fever two days before. It began as usual with coldness and shivering ; now he complained of a vehement pain in his head and loins, had

* Doctor Daniel Cox, with whom I was well acquainted, wrote very judiciously upon this fever at that time.

great oppression on his breast and præcordia, with quick respiration; his pulse was almost imperceptible, and he had a very great propensity to sweat. Though his pulse was so feeble, I took away directly about sixteen ounces of blood, which was fizy to a great degree, and his pulse evidently rose whilst he was bleeding. Then I ordered a common clyster should be given him forthwith, and that he should take a scruple or half a dram of purified nitre dissolved in a draught of barley-water every two hours, and drink plentifully of the common diluting liquors advised in inflammatory disorders. Next day I found his symptoms alleviated, but thought it proper to bleed him again as much as before, and ordered a repetition of the clyster towards evening and a lenient purge next morning. Upon this day's visit he complained of pain of his side, on which account a vesicatory was applied to it, after the operation of the purge was over, which gave him relief; yet, considering his strength of constitution and the state of his blood, I bled him
again

again freely the next day ; after which, by persisting in the use of nitre and keeping the body open, with the observance of a proper regimen, he soon recovered a good state of health.

Another case of this kind of fever in a person of a different constitution attended with some singular circumstances.

I was desired to attend a gentlewoman of a lax habit and very weak constitution about thirty years of age, on the sixth day of her illness, when I found her pulse weak but regular, complaining of pain universally, but more upon her side than any where else, attended with a cough and difficulty of breathing ; and she was also very restless, without having had the benefit of a motion for many days ; nor had she lost any blood. I bled her forthwith to the quantity of eight ounces, and ordered a common clyster to be given immediately

after bleeding, with draughts of nitre and camphire, with other medicines usually prescribed in pleuritic and pulmonary complaints. The pain of the side continuing, I bled her again next day, and the clyster given the day before, neither returning nor producing any effect, I directed a laxative mixture to be taken in small quantities till the end should be answered, and then a vesicatory to be applied to the side, which procured great relief; but the fever still continued and a thrush came on, which went quite through the alimentary canal, appearing about the anus as in an infant *;

* I never before, nor since, saw the thrush appear in such a manner in an adult. I procured the very efficacious medicine for her on this occasion, which I have since discovered and published, see Vol. II., and it had an extraordinary effect by bringing away great quantities of thick sloughs by stool, keeping her body open during the use of it. Undoubtedly the alimentary canal is often much affected with the thrush, when we observe it upon the fauces, &c.

Had I been then acquainted with the virtues of the castor oil, it would very probably have proved of great use in this case as an eccoprotic or laxative.

still

still she struggled through this very dangerous illness and perfectly recovered; though it was undoubtedly much prolonged, and rendered worse for want of bleeding and proper treatment in time, her blood having a thick buff-colour size of strong cohesion.

The bark proved an excellent restorative in the conclusion of this disease, and asses milk was very beneficial to the same purpose.

A case in this kind of fever, which through neglect terminated in mortifications.

I was desired, by some humane and benevolent persons, to visit a poor labouring man, who, at a great distance from his own home, had been confined with this fever more than a fortnight, destitute of necessary support, and without any medical assistance. He was about thirty years of

age, of a robust and sanguine constitution, and had not lived very temperately.

I found him in cold, clammy sweats, with a feeble intermitting pulse, and was informed, that he had been in a delirious state for many days, voiding his excrements and urine involuntarily. Upon farther examination I discovered a deep and spreading mortification over the Os sacrum, extending far unto the hips, and one upon each heel; all which penetrated to the bones.

Under these deplorable circumstances, I was not willing to abandon this poor man to his fate, and the charitable persons I have mentioned readily offering to support him, I as readily engaged to take care of him, without any prospect of gratuity for my attendance, &c. I ordered a vesicatory to be applied to his head, the bark and volatiles to be taken, and the mortifications to be dressed in the usual manner. The next day I found his pulse better; he
was

was perfect in his senses, and the mortifications had made no farther progress.

By a regular perseverance in all respects, this dismal case ended happily, by which we were amply rewarded in preserving a life, that might become useful to a wife and family of young helpless children, who were in a miserable situation.

This kind of fever continued with us more than six months. It was not confined to region or climate, as appears by the following extract of a letter, which I received from an ingenious young Surgeon, then first Mate on board the Royal Sovereign in Sir John Norris's squadron, cruising in the Bay of Biscay, and upon the Spanish and French coasts, &c.

Royal Sovereign, Dec. 24, 1741.

*" You may depend upon the account I send
 " you, according to your desire, concerning
 " the fever, which has raged some time
 " among*

“ among us in different latitudes ; for I made
“ my observations with the utmost exactness ;
“ taking notes at the same time in my journal,
“ and always visited the patients three times
“ a day.

“ Our patients in general were seized with
“ shiverings, pain of the head, giddiness, lassitude, faintness, great oppression on the
“ breast and præcordia, sickness and frequent
“ vomiting, with a pulse almost imperceptible.
“ In a few hours after the attack they became so weak as to be incapable of assisting
“ themselves upon almost every occasion ; I
“ was myself so affected, with the utmost depression of spirits ; and we were very subject to relapse. I observed the most sanguine, vigorous and bravest of our men
“ were most liable to the disease, but, I think,
“ we did not lose one of those, who were
“ seized at first with febrile symptoms to an
“ intense degree, attended with a strong pulse,

“ I made this single remark, perhaps not
“ altogether impertinent. A young fellow

“ of a very robust and sanguine constitution,
 “ most subject to this disease, as I have ob-
 “ served, resolutely bathed in the sea every
 “ day and escaped. Some of our patients
 “ on the 5th or 6th day were seized with
 “ diarrhæas, which generally proved salu-
 “ tary, and went off spontaneously. Three
 “ or four after the fourth or fifth day fell
 “ into stupors for eight or ten days; these
 “ had black scabrous tongues, accompanied
 “ with eruptions, spasms, &c. yet they reco-
 “ vered. All the persons appointed to at-
 “ tend the sick were affected more or less;
 “ though we had, according to the seamen’s
 “ phrase, fine airy births †.

“ Our general method of cure was this.
 “ Bleeding plentifully at first, and repeating
 “ it occasionally, according to the patient’s
 “ strength and constitution and other circum-
 “ stances. After bleeding we gave a vomit,
 “ and when that did not also operate by stool,

† The term *birth* signifies an inclosed space, or
 kind of apartment, made with canvas, for one seaman
 or more.

a clyster

“ a clyster was given, prepared with sea-
“ water and oil. If the sickness and vomit-
“ ing continued, we then ordered the common
“ saline mixture of succ. limon. sal. absinth.
“ &c. For common drinks to be taken libe-
“ rally, we directed barley-water agreeably
“ acidulated with vegetable or mineral acids,
“ and such kind of acescent liquors, without
“ any sort of animal food: and we also gave
“ cooling-powders composed of nit. purificat.
“ and ocul. cancrorum; keeping the bowels
“ open with lenient purgatives or clysters.

“ When a stupor came on we always had
“ recourse to blistering and temperate cordi-
“ als; finding the pulse depressed and irregu-
“ lar; and we frequently observed singular
“ good effects on this occasion, from the appli-
“ cation of a vesicatory to the head.

“ All who died became delirious, and some
“ raved forty-eight hours before they expired,
“ when convulsions closed the scene.

“ This

“ This was our general method of the
 “ cooling kind, varied occasionally, as reason,
 “ observation, and experience directed us :
 “ and indeed I must think we were very
 “ happy in the success of our practice, con-
 “ sidering the great disadvantages of situa-
 “ tion, as we lost no more than ten patients
 “ in the whole cruise, and we had above two
 “ hundred of the ships crew sick at one time.

“ Notwithstanding the continuance of this
 “ fever in our ship, we were soon ordered
 “ upon duty again in the same station. In
 “ our second cruise we had a greater number
 “ of sick, and the disease was attended with
 “ more violent symptoms in general, conse-
 “ quently more died, which we attributed to
 “ the excessive impurity of the air between
 “ decks, the necessary consequence of keeping
 “ the ports close, which the fine weather
 “ before permitted us to keep almost always
 “ open : but we found no reason to alter our
 “ method of treating our patients. Very
 “ few, either in this or in our first cruise,
 “ had

*“ had eruptions appear in the course of the
“ fever.”*

At the desire of the Officers of the Royal Sovereign, the substance of this narration was transmitted to the Lords of the Admiralty, and by their order it was published in the *St. James's Evening-Post*.

*The very alarming malignant fever which
was attended with the gangrenous fore-
throat, and immediately succeeded the last
epidemic.*

It made its first appearance in May, 1742, in that part of Norfolk where I then practised; and as I had never seen the disease, nor could I recollect any description of it, that had been recorded by any of our own or other observators, I was at a loss to know its nature, and consequently the proper method of treating it. Upon the strictest inquiry I could not then hear of its being in any other part of the county or the kingdom, nor could I procure satisfactory information to direct my judgment
and

and practice, by looking into some antient writers, and also some of the last century; though they did afford me some useful knowledge on this very interesting subject.

This disease was chiefly confined to children and young persons, though some adults were seized with it; and the mortality which attended it was very great indeed; in none greater, perhaps, in this kingdom, except the plague itself.

I was at once convinced upon inspection, that the tonsils, fauces, &c. had not the appearance of a common inflammation, and they had an early tendency to mortify; nor did the symptoms of the fever show it to be of the inflammatory kind: and I soon found that the patients could bear neither bleeding nor purging, nor the cooling, antiphlogistic treatment. Hence I was led to consider it of a putrid or malignant nature, consequently treated it as such, with temperate cordials, alexipharmics, preparations of the bark, &c. frequently using
warm,

warm, antiseptic gargarisms. Sometimes I thought blistering the throat or sides of the neck did service, but scarifying the affected parts was evidently prejudicial. Though purging was hurtful in this disease, yet common clysters were occasionally necessary to prevent the inconveniencies arising from costiveness, or a long retention of the fæces; and when the bowels were in the contrary state, which frequently happened, it demanded particular attention.

This disease continued more than ten years in my circle of business, but it was not equally violent all that time; it raged and was most mortal in the years 1745 and 1746. I had a great number of patients in it, which gave me opportunities of seeing it in every shape; but I forbear taking any farther notice of what I observed, three great physicians, doctor Fothergill, doctor Huxham, and doctor Wall having treated fully and learnedly upon the nature and method of cure; to which may also be added Mr. Penrose's Dissertation on the
inflam-

inflammatory, gangrenous and putrid fore-throat, which contains very judicious and useful characteristics of distinction, to direct the judgment of the unexperienced *.

I held

* There seemed to me, upon strict examination, a great analogy between this disease and that of the horned cattle, which continued many years in this island, the pathognomonic of which also appeared in the throat; and it is observable, that Aretæus, in his accurate description of this malignant disease about 2000 years ago, expressly says it was preceded by a plague amongst that species of cattle, using the word *lues*, which signifies *pestilence* in man; and *murrain*, or the *plague*, in cattle. Lib. i. cap. 9. de causis & signis morborum.

Doctor Layard, an eminent English physician, and Dr. Blondet, a physician of great character at Montpellier, condescended, for the public good, to write upon this epidemic contagious disease, which proved dreadfully mortal to the cattle in different countries and climates.—Doctor Layard proposed inoculation on this occasion, but the practice did not prevail.

Since the publication of these papers, I have been favoured with a letter from Doctor Layard, wherein he informs me, that he has held correspondence, concerning this very dreadful disease, with eminent physicians and professors in Holland, France, Sweden, Denmark

D

and

I held a constant epistolary correspondence for eight years, with the gentleman

and the Netherlands, where it has raged as well as in many parts of England, and received sufficient attestations to encourage the practice of *Inoculation* which he recommended, particularly from Holland and Denmark, and from the professors of the university of Francker in Friesland, where it has been successfully practised.

This malignant fever and fore-throat was very rife in France about the year 1748.—The celebrated Mons. Le Cat, M. D. C. at Rouen in Normandy, wrote a dissertation upon it.—Doctor Chomel, an eminent physician at Paris, also wrote upon this disease, which he observed there that year; and by histories of cases he shows the pernicious effects and fatal consequences of bleeding in it. In his treatise he has given a long list of writers upon this direful disease, who lived in different countries and ages.—The learned and accurate observer, Doctor Johnson of Kidderminster, in his excellent historical dissertation on malignant diseases which prevailed there for some years, has mentioned this fore-throat, with some particular remarks upon it.

Creech's translation of Lucretius's historical account of the plague at Athens and explanatory notes, wherein are mentioned the sentiments of Thucydides and Hippocrates upon the same subject, are well worth reading, as they contain many useful physiological and

medical

man * who favoured me with the preceding account of the fever, which raged in the royal navy, and particularly on board the Royal Sovereign, in the year 1741; during which correspondence, till the conclusion of the war in 1748, he gratified me with many memorable occurrences, some of which I have extracted from his letters to be here inserted; first begging leave to be indulged with a short digression in justice to my friend's character, and to give the more weight and authenticity to his valuable and useful communications, he being a man of great veracity, probity and application, to whom I am much obliged.

When he was well qualified for the University, he was committed to the care and

medical remarks and observations, concerning the nature and cause of malignant fevers in general, as well as this deplorable calamity in particular, which depopulated that famous city in all its glory.—It is a common saying, where the natural philosopher ends the physician must begin.

* Dr. D'Urban of Halesworth.

tuition of a regular surgeon in extensive practice, and being very studious, he made a greater proficiency than common in a few years. At about 20 years of age he resolved to enter into the navy, we being just then engaged in a war with France and Spain. Upon his first examination at Surgeons-Hall for this purpose, he obtained a qualification for principal surgeon of a small man of war, by the unanimous approbation of the examiners, confirmed by the examining physician; which was considered as a singular honour conferred upon him; but one of those gentlemen, in the most friendly manner advised him to wave this appointment, and accept that of first mate of the Royal Sovereign going out directly upon a cruise, which he told him he could, and would, if he chose it, procure for him without any loss of time, under a very able and experienced surgeon, his particular friend *, where he would have the best opportunities of making himself ac-

* Mr. Green.

quainted with the naval or marine practice of physic and surgery *, to qualify himself the better to act alone afterwards ; assuring him at the same time, that through his interest too, he might depend upon having a ship provided for him against he returned from the cruise.

Not long after he went on board, the principal surgeon fell sick, and for the preservation of his life, was obliged to be carried on shore, and there left for the recovery of his health. By this unfortunate incident the care and important charge of the ship's crew devolved upon him, with the assistance of four mates : however, his conduct in this station proved highly to his credit, and perfectly to the satisfaction of the officers, as well as the common men, by his exemplary tenderness and humanity shown in the exercise of his profession, with the utmost diligence and attention, as I had the pleasure of hearing from undoubted authority.

* Mr. Northcote wrote an instructive treatise upon this subject in the year 1770.

After the peace was concluded he returned to London, where he attended the hospitals and lectures upon every branch of the medical art; then at Paris, and afterwards studied at Edinburgh, where he took a doctor's degree, much to his reputation, his thesis inauguralis having been much approved by the professors,

C A S E S

CASES AND REMARKS.

*Communicated by the Gentleman whom I have
been mentioning.*

Case of a fractured jaw-bone.

“ When I was in the Royal Sovereign,
“ a seaman who had always enjoyed good
“ health, came to ask my advice as we lay
“ in Portsmouth harbour, he having two
“ years before at New-York, fractured the
“ maxilla inferior, by cracking a hard
“ walnut. The fractured bone not having
“ been properly confined and treated at
“ first, it was now become so troublesome
“ and painful, that he was unable to ma-
“ sticate solid food. Upon inspection I
“ found the bone black, and part of it
“ moveable, so that with my finger and
“ thumb, I easily extracted more than an
“ inch of the whole substance, with the

“ dens canin. and one of the molares still
 “ in their sockets. The cure was soon
 “ effected by the application of lint moist-
 “ ened in a mixture of aq. calcis and tinct.
 “ myrrhæ, and in a reasonable time the
 “ space was filled up with osseous matter,
 “ and became as hard as bone itself, ad-
 “ mitting of mastication without any un-
 “ easiness *,”

*A case of a fracture of the scull, attended
with some extraordinary circumstances.*

“ Paul Spliff, a very corpulent Dutch-
 “ man, one of our sailors on board the
 “ Royal Sovereign, walking in a dark night
 “ with some of his comrades in Portsmouth
 “ dock-yard, fell into the dry-dock be-
 “ tween 20 and 30 feet deep and his head
 “ came first upon a piece of timber. His
 “ companions took him up immediately,
 “ senseless and indeed seemingly dead, and

* See Vol. II. p. 71.

brought

“ brought him on board. Our worthy
“ surgeon Mr. Green, being sick on shore,
“ the care of him fell upon me; and with
“ the most attentive examination I could
“ scarce feel any pulse, which though
“ almost imperceptible, was the only sign
“ of life remaining. Upon the fall he had
“ bled very much at the nose, mouth, and
“ ears, and the bleeding still continuing,
“ with the weakness of his pulse, prevented
“ my bleeding him directly. His head
“ was immediately shaved all over, and
“ there appeared a large ecchymosis upon
“ the right side of his head and forehead.
“ Our surgeon being too ill to venture to
“ come on board upon this occasion, I sent
“ forthwith to the surgeon of the dock-
“ yard, to beg the favour of his coming
“ with the messenger, to give me his ad-
“ vice and assistance, apprehending there
“ was a fracture, which might require
“ scalping and trepanning without delay;
“ but he absolutely refused his attendance
“ at this time of the night; I then sent
“ the only mate I had with me at this
“ junc-

“ juncture, to remonstrate to him in the
“ most pressing manner the apparent
“ necessity of something being speedily
“ done for the preservation of the man’s
“ life, desiring if he did not choose to come
“ instantly, that he would be so kind as to
“ lend us his trepanning instruments, ours
“ now being at the instrument-makers to
“ be put in order ; but this request he also
“ cruelly refused ; therefore, at this time
“ of the night, and under these unhappy
“ circumstances, I could do nothing but
“ scalp him, which I did extensively, as
“ soon as possible, and discharged a great
“ quantity of coagulated blood, upon which
“ his pulse rose and became more regular,
“ which before was depressed and very
“ irregular, as usual when the brain is op-
“ pressed. I then found the os frontis
“ fractured with great depression, and
“ several fissures in almost every direction ;
“ one in particular extended far into the
“ parietal bone, and another into the orbit
“ of the eye ; but what surprised me most
“ of all, was a wide separation the whole
“ extent

“ extent of the coronal suture. Though I
“ could not elevate the depressed pieces of
“ the cranium, yet the patient received so
“ much relief from the scalping and removal
“ of the extravasated blood, that in an
“ hour or two after he recovered his senses
“ and speech, with an improvement of his
“ pulse, which afforded me great satisfaction under such desperate circumstances:
“ however, early in the morning I conducted him to the hospital at Gosport, where
“ trepanning was immediately performed,
“ and, at the same time, a fluid appearing
“ under the dura mater, it was thought
“ advisable to divide it the whole length of
“ the separation of the suture with scissars,
“ which was from one temporal bone to the
“ other. The operation succeeded very
“ happily, as I was afterwards informed*.”

Another

* See a note in V. I. and V. II. concerning fractures of the skull. In a course of 40 years practice I have been concerned in a great number of fractures upon every part of the skull, and succeeded by the operation of the trephine

*Another case of a fracture of the scull attended
with some singular circumstances.*

“ After quitting the Royal Sovereign,
“ and being appointed chief surgeon to a
“ small man of war, instead of lying in
“ Port-Mahon harbour, as we expected,
“ all the winter, we were sent in company
“ with the Terrible, to cruise in the Strait’s
“ Mouth, where after a smart engagement
“ I was sent for by the surgeon of our
“ consort, to assist him in the following
“ case,

“ William Bright aged about 24, of a
“ good habit of body and of an athletic
“ constitution, complained very much of
“ pain on the back of his hand, wrist, and

trephine in about two thirds of them; even when applied to the exceptionable parts according to the direction of writers on surgery, it has been attended with success.

arm ;

“ arm ; which he could not bear to be
“ moved, or even touched, without giving
“ him the most exquisite sensation of pain ;
“ though there was no visible hurt upon
“ the limb ; but whilst examining it, we
“ observed some blood dropping from his
“ head, and upon searching there, disco-
“ vered a wound, and the probe instantly
“ convinced us the cranium was fractured ;
“ consequently we scalped him directly, and
“ after suffering the vessels to bleed freely,
“ restrained the hæmorrhage and trepanned
“ him, judging it most advisable to pro-
“ ceed to that operation without delay,
“ before the symptomatic fever should
“ come on and probably worse symptoms
“ supervene, by the encephalon suffering
“ from depressed fragments of bone and
“ extravasated blood ; besides we had rea-
“ son to believe the ball might be lodged
“ there, from the wound being perpendi-
“ cular, through the upper part of the right
“ parietal bone, and to the best of the pa-
“ tient’s remembrance, who now had his
“ senses perfectly, it was received at the
“ very

“ very instant he was stooping to take up
“ his musket in the heat of the engage-
“ ment. The piece of the cranium which
“ the ball took in its course was separated
“ all round, and considerably forced down
“ upon the *dura mater*, without any
“ shivers or fissures appearing externally.
“ We applied the trephine a little below
“ the inferior part of the fracture, and
“ when we arrived at the *diploe*, we found
“ the circular piece of bone completely cut
“ through so far, quite loose, and upon
“ taking that out, it evidently appeared to
“ us, that a much greater extent of the
“ inner table was broken off, that was
“ loose and forced down upon the *dura*
“ *mater*, which it had lacerated; but we
“ could not discover the ball, even after we
“ cut the perforation made by that and the
“ trephine one into the other, and extracted
“ several large pieces of the lower table.
“ After the strictest search we could not
“ find the ball, or any other extraneous
“ body; but felt more splinters of the inner
“ table loose, which we could not extract;
“ and

“ and from this consideration, I urged
 “ making another or more perforations,
 “ but my friend, a very good surgeon,
 “ opposed this step and so it was not
 “ taken *.

* If one perforation of the skull, made in a depending part, will give an opportunity of sufficiently elevating a piece or pieces, or of removing fragments of the bone oppressing the brain, and also of discharging any extravasated fluid contained underneath, it will be better, for obvious reasons, not to make more; but it may often be found requisite to make more, as I have observed in patients of my own and those of other surgeons, in consultations where I have been, with the concurrent opinion of the ablest and most judicious practitioners: and, indeed, I think none can be competent judges in such cases without seeing them and attending minutely and attentively to every circumstance. —See *Mem. de l'Acad. Roy. de Chirurgie sur la Multiplicité des Trepanns*, Tom. 1. Pag. 251 & seq. — And, concerning the usefulness of perforated plates of lead applied after trepanning, see Vol. I. under the Art. Trepanning, and Vol. II. p. 12.

Though I have known fractures of the skull successfully treated without trepanning, yet I am persuaded many lives have been lost for want of having that operation performed in time.

“ The

“ The patient was dressed in the most
“ easy and gentle manner, an exact regi-
“ men observed, venesection several times
“ repeated, and lenient purgatives occa-
“ sionally administered.

“ The symptoms attending the hand
“ and arm immediately upon the accident,
“ went off upon the operation; the wound
“ digested very well, and the *dura mater*
“ had a good aspect; yet, as the ball was
“ left, we had great reason to fear direful
“ symptoms would sooner or later super-
“ vene.

“ On the seventh day after the opera-
“ tion this patient was conveyed to the
“ hospital at Gibraltar, where he was
“ treated judiciously; and after the exfo-
“ liations and some splinters were thrown
“ off, the wound was cicatrized, and he
“ was thought fit to do duty again in the
“ ship, after about 3 months continuance
“ in the hospital, where no alarming
“ symptoms occurred, nor was the ball
“ discovered.

“ discovered. He was then returned on
 “ board his ship, and the undulatory mo-
 “ tion of the ship, though at anchor,
 “ brought on such a vertigo and other
 “ complaints of the nervous kind, that it
 “ was thought advisable to have him sent
 “ back to the hospital, where these symp-
 “ toms very soon went off, and he walked
 “ about apparently well. After this I
 “ never saw him, but was credibly in-
 “ formed he did not long continue free
 “ from the most alarming symptoms, and
 “ lost the use of his right arm, where his
 “ first complaint was, and the sight of his
 “ right eye, which is contrary to general
 “ observation, that when paralytic symp-
 “ toms come on in consequence of frac-
 “ tures of the scull, or injuries done to the
 “ encephalon, they appear on the oppo-
 “ site side.

“ As every circumstance of such an ex-
 “ traordinary case demands notice, I shall
 “ use my utmost endeavours to obtain a
 Vol. III. E “ parti-

“ particular account of its event, in order
“ to transmit it to you *.

“ The day after our fleet, under the
“ command of admiral Matthews, who
“ should have been better supported by
“ Lestock, had engaged and put to flight
“ the combined fleets of France and
“ Spain, the wounded were sent to the
“ hospital at Port-Mahon, where our ship
“ was left for reparation, and I had the
“ opportunity of attending and dressing
“ there till April.

“ In this hospital we had a great variety
“ of cases in respect to gun-shot-wounds
“ and compound fractures, with many
“ amputations of course from such acci-

* No farther intelligence could be obtained in this case.

Monf. le Dran, in his Treatise on gun-shot wounds, relates a case of a man's dying suddenly with a ball lodged upon the *fella turcica*, a year after the accident happened.

dents ;

“ dents ; and here I recommended the use
 “ of your retractor and method of ampu-
 “ tating above the knee, which were
 “ much approved.

“ As to compound fractures, I must
 “ confess I saw no treatment of them so
 “ worthy notice as I observed under your
 “ care ; and indeed the success here was
 “ but very indifferent, which is the case
 “ in general in hospitals, from bad air,
 “ &c. particularly in military hospitals,
 “ where requisite accommodation is want-
 “ ing*.

“ Some extraordinary incidents in two
 “ amputations induce me to give you short
 “ relations of them.

“ A very robust, healthy young man,
 “ had a shattered arm amputated at the
 “ scapular articulation, by the hospital

* Observe what Sir John Pringle says concerning the hospital fever, &c. in his most excellent book on Diseases of the Army, which also contains much more useful medical knowledge than what the title specifies.

“ surgeon, and the artery not being se-
“ cured by the needle and ligature, a vio-
“ lent hæmorrhage ensued the next day ;
“ upon which accident the patient fainted,
“ and it was thought he would not have
“ revived. When the dressings were re-
“ moved no bleeding appeared, and the
“ artery had so far retracted itself that the
“ mouth of it could not be discovered ;
“ however, a styptic was applied by guess,
“ and a compress over it, having a person
“ appointed to make constant pressure
“ upon it. Two days after, when it was
“ apprehended there was no danger of a
“ return of the bleeding, the artery broke
“ out again, and then the patient sunk
“ irrecoverably under it, before it was dis-
“ covered. A melancholy circumstance
“ indeed to relate, thus to have a life lost
“ for want of due attention, and not hav-
“ ing the artery effectually secured by
“ needle and ligature at first *.

* See a pertinent case in Vol. II. concerning an amputation, wherein I assisted a very able and experienced surgeon.

“ The

“ The other case was also a compound
 “ fracture of the arm, so near the joint
 “ that the surgeons at first determined to
 “ take it off there; but on farther confi-
 “ deration, it was resolved to amputate it
 “ at the fractured part; previous to which
 “ a tape was passed with a seton-needle
 “ through the internal part of the arm
 “ near the bone, to serve the purpose of a
 “ tourniquet, there not being room to
 “ affix that. The tape was tied suffi-
 “ ciently strait with a bow-knot, then the
 “ limb was amputated, and the artery
 “ taken up in the usual manner with the
 “ needle and ligature, and the tape with-
 “ drawn. This patient was seized with a
 “ bad fever, and did not recover *.”

“ A young

* I can, by pressure with my thumb upon the
 little pectoral muscle, just above the clavicle, stop the
 course of the blood in the subclavian artery, as I have
 mentioned in Vol. I. p. 72, and fol.

I believe it would be no difficult matter for an inge-
 nious mechanic to invent, with proper instructions, a
 machine for this purpose, by which means the opera-

“ A young man was brought to this
“ hospital during my attendance, who had
“ his breast trodden upon, about half a
“ year before, by a person, very forcibly,
“ whence

tion might be performed at the articulation, with as much ease as a common amputation; but was I to perform the operation, and had an assistant I could well depend upon, I should prefer his compression, as mentioned above, for obvious reasons.

In an amputation below the knee, I once saw a large portion of a tendon and a nerve included in the ligature with an artery, even by a surgeon conversant in operations; in consequence of which, pain, spasms, and a violent fever ensued and carried off the patient, who was a good subject, in strong convulsions, on the third day after the operation. The day after the patient's death, I had an opportunity, with some other surgeons, of examining the stump, and we then found the ligature upon the parts as described. An ingenious surgeon told me some time ago, that when he was a dressing-pupil in an hospital, he was an eye-witness where a ligature remained on till every other part of the stump was cicatrized, which could not be removed without making a deep incision to disengage it from the tendinous parts, about which it was tied with the artery.

Those

“ whence violent symptoms ensued, as
 “ pain, great difficulty of breathing, cough,
 “ fever, &c. notwithstanding proper care
 “ had been taken of him at first. In con-
 “ sequence

Those who are inclined to follow Mr. Aikin's rational method in the Appendix to Mr. White's judicious Observations in Surgery, by making ligatures on the large arteries with forceps in amputations, as was formerly done, in order to obviate the inconveniences and dangerous consequences just mentioned, should be particularly careful in doing it, after drawing out the vessels to a sufficient length, lest the retraction of them and the impulse of the blood should throw them off. Two fatal instances, for want of this attention, I well remember to have happened more than 40 years ago, when the needle was seldom used: in one the hæmorrhage was so great, that the patient expired before the surgeon could get to him, who lived but two miles off, no precaution having been taken to have recourse to the tourniquet upon such an incident; and the other patient never recovered the immense loss of blood.

With the same considerations and views of those ingenious gentlemen, very laudably attentive to the improvement of our art, I practised for many years, much to the satisfaction of myself and other surgeons, the method mentioned in a note in Vol. II.

“ sequence of this injury, a tumour at
“ length appeared, with an obscure fluctu-
“ ation of a fluid, being much confined
“ by the pectoral muscle; however, it was
“ determined in a consultation to open it,
“ and an aperture was made with an im-
“ posthume-lancet, very properly in the
“ depending part, without any appearance
“ of matter, only upon the point of the
“ instrument, the muscle closing the ori-
“ fice, till his position was altered, when

By drawing the artery gently out a little way by one edge with dissecting forceps made rough, or with very small teeth for obvious reasons, the ligature may be easily conveyed on with the needle, taking in only a little of the connecting cellular membrane effectually to prevent its slipping off; and it will cause no more pain or inconvenience than including the vessels alone, which should be tied but moderately strait. At the end of the forceps may be such a tenaculum as is recommended by Mr. Aikin, and now used by many surgeons, though the common hook there may answer the purpose of that very well.

Either of these methods, and the application at first of the most easy dressing and bandage with the least degree of circular pressure, will certainly avert many formidable symptoms in consequence of amputations.

“ it

“ it came gushing out in a large quantity;
“ and from the flatus, &c. it evidently
“ proceeded from the cavity of the thorax.
“ Upon dilating the wound a carious rib
“ was discovered, and about two inches of
“ it immediately extracted, entirely separated from the cartilage. Towards the
“ conclusion of this cure, a rib on the
“ other side was fractured, by a violent fit
“ of coughing, yet in length of time he
“ recovered of this too. When this latter
“ accident happened he was exceedingly
“ emaciated, and four surgeons, who
“ strictly examined him, were unanimous
“ in opinion, that it was a complete fracture. Before the former accident he
“ was healthy, and never had any specific
“ symptoms of a venereal, scorbutic, or
“ scrophulous nature; nor did any such
“ appear now.

“ Mr. Christy, senior surgeon of this
“ hospital, assured me, that he knew a
“ gentleman who fractured a rib by violent
“ exertion in coughing.

Presuming

Presuming upon the farther indulgence of my readers, I shall proceed to insert a few short extracts from the letters of my correspondent, who was a diligent inquirer and observer ; concerning the state of physic and surgery in several places abroad, &c. adding here and there a note occasionally, believing they will not prove disagreeable, perhaps not altogether unprofitable, to those I professedly thus employ my time to serve : and should they afford them only a little entertainment, promoting a spirit of emulation to improve such hints to their advantage, my end and design will be answered.

“ In a cruise into the *Levant*, I found
“ no physicians or surgeons in any repute
“ at *Smyrna*, where illness detained me
“ some time, except those who attended
“ the *European factories*. The Mahome-
“ tans, being fatalists, pay very little re-
“ gard to physic.

“ When I used to take the air for the
“ recovery of my health in the environs of
“ this

“ this city, on horseback, very awkwardly
 “ accoutred indeed in conformity to the
 “ Turkish mode, it was necessary to be
 “ attended by a janizary for protection, as
 “ the Turkish robbers generally shoot the
 “ traveller first, and then rob him.

“ However, notwithstanding the preva-
 “ lent notion of the ferocious disposition
 “ of the Turks, I found those very obliging
 “ who used to visit our factory, where I
 “ was well accommodated during my stay
 “ at *Smyrna*; they used to invite me to
 “ walk in their gardens, presenting me
 “ with fruit, and giving other testimonies
 “ of civility and courteous behaviour.
 “ There seems no danger of living among
 “ them, if we do not concern ourselves
 “ with their women or their religion; but
 “ committing any acts of indiscretion in
 “ these points, wherein they are very
 “ jealous, nice, and delicate, would pro-
 “ bably excite their vengeance with fatal
 “ consequences.

“ In

“ In the *Grecian islands* in the *Archipelago*, the *elephantiasis*, or *lepra Græcorum*, still prevails; many poor miserable objects I there beheld in this condition.

“ As no medical persons by profession now dwell in these islands, some of them hearing that English men of war were upon their coast, came on board our ships, and almost every one of them brought a pullet under his arm to offer as a gratuity for our advice. Though our humanity was exceedingly affected with the tyrannous subjection they laboured under, joined with the most noisome contumacious disease, yet as we were in a perpetual fluctuating state, cruising in quest of our enemies, that prevented even a possibility of administering to them any relief in their complicated misery*.

“ In

* The *elephantiasis*, or *lepra Græcorum*, which is of the same species with the *lepra Arabum*, is reckoned

“ In this cruise I had also opportunities
 “ of visiting many other parts of *ancient*
 “ *Greece*, but it gave me inexpressible con-
 “ cern to reflect upon and compare their
 “ present

oned among the incurable diseases ; it is elegantly de-
 scribed by *Aretæus the Cappadocian*, *Lib. II. Cap. 13.*
 who says it is so called from its foul aspect resembling
 the elephant's skin, with unequal protuberances, rough-
 ness, and thickness of the parts having clefts and chaps.
Pliny says it appeared in *Italy* in the time of *Pompey*
the Great, who thought it had been peculiar to the
Egyptians.

Lucretius says,

Est elephas morbus qui propter flumina Nili
 Gignitur Ægypto in Media, neque præterea usquam.

—Vid. *Prosp. Alpinum de Medicina Ægyptiorum*.—
Galen speaks of seeing it to a great degree in his
 time at *Alexandria*, in which university he was edu-
 cated, and afterwards resided and practised at *Rome* in
 the highest reputation.—It is observed to be less fre-
 quent in *Germany*, *Scythia*, and the cold northern re-
 gions than in hot countries.—*Amb. Paré* says it is more
 in *Spain* and *Africa* than in any other part of the world,
 and more in *Languedoc*, *Guyenne*, and *Provence*, than
 in all *France* besides.—*Towne* says that the inhabitants
 of the *Caribbee islands*, both the white people and the
 negroes, are very subject to this disease, but that it
 there

“ present miserable condition in abject vassal-
 “ age and slavery under the Ottoman govern-
 “ ment, with their former glorious state ;
 “ even *Athens* itself, once transcendently
 “ famous

there generally follows some other violent disorder ; or proceeds from living upon unwholesome diet : and *Doctor Dunbar*, with whom I was formerly acquainted, since dead, who practised there, confirmed to me what *Towne* has written upon this subject.—*Hughes*, in the IId Book of his excellent Natural History of *Barbadoes*, speaking of the diseases of this and the adjacent *islands*, has something relating to this matter well worth reading.

An ingenious young gentleman, Mr. Forster, bred in Guy's hospital, and settled now in London, who was surgeon to an *East-Indiaman*, lately informed me by letter, among other judicious remarks, what he observed of this dreadful disease on the *Malabar coast*, where he saw several miserable creatures, with one of their legs near 30 inches in circumference, and the foot enlarged in proportion, unattended with pain, though so enormously swelled ; and under these circumstances, he says, no attempt is made in *India* to cure them.

The celebrated *Doctor Mead* has made inquiry about this matter ; see his book *de Medica Sacra*.—In the *Medical Transactions of the College of Physicians*, Vol. I.
Dr.

“ famous and renowned throughout the
 “ world for being the seat of arts and sci-
 “ ences, polite literature and refined policy,
 “ is now overwhelmed with barbarism and
 “ igno-

Dr. Heberden, an eminent physician at *Madeira*, has communicated the history of a cure of this disease by the *bark* in a confirmed and inveterate case, and says he has found it successful in several incipient cases.— See in the *London Medical Observations and Inquiries*, Art. 18. Vol. I. a letter to the late ingenious and learned *Doctor Clephane*, from a physician at *Aix*, giving an account of the *leprosy*, as it appears in the hospital called *St. Lazare*, which has been established for time immemorial upon the coast of *Provence* in *France*.—*Vid. Celsum de Vitiliginis Speciebus*, Lib. V. Cap. 28. et *Hieronymum Mercurialem*, who has written very learnedly upon the *lepra* in his treatise *De Morbis Cutaneis*, wherein he mentions many of the earliest writers upon this disease, which is considered by the systematic writers of the last century, as one of the *opprobria medicorum*, as well as by those of greater antiquity.

As we have the *leprosy* in this island of a temperate climate, it generally appears like bran upon the skin, or a dry white scab, more frequently found upon the elbows and knees than any where else, though no part of the body is exempt from it.—Under these circumstances I have seen more good done by a long continued

“ ignorance.—Strange vicissitudes!—*Quis*
 “ *talia fando temperet à lacrymis?*

“ I have collected some natural and arti-
 “ ficial curiosities, which I hope to have
 “ the pleasure of entertaining you with,
 “ when we have subdued our enemies *.

“ We

nued and regular perseverance in the use of merc.
 sublimat. corrosiv. in very small doses, than by any
 other medicine, drinking, during the mercurial course,
 very liberally of a decoction prepared with guaiacum,
 assafras, china and sarsaparilla, having crude antimony
 boiled in it, loosely tied up in a piece of cloth; taking
 now and then a lenient purge, and using a warm bath.
 I have also experienced the good effects of this lini-
 ment.

R picis liquid. ℥iss.

Ung. e. florib. sambuc, ℥iv.

Lixiv. tart. ℥i. m. bis in die applic. calidâ
manu.

I have also seen singularly good effects from the Chel-
 tenham waters, not only in this but in some other
 obstinate cutaneous complaints; and lately in a very
 striking instance, wherein many other powerful me-
 thods proved inefficacious.

* Upon my friend's return from this cruise, through
 the carelessness of the persons employed to careen the
 ship

“ We took several French prizes in this
 “ cruise, in one of which was a merchant
 “ who had been upon business to *Mecca*,
 “ not as a pilgrim. He made me a pre-
 “ sent of a pint bottle of true *balsam of*
 “ *Mecca*, as a grateful acknowledgment,
 “ for some services I rendered him in my
 “ profession, having nothing else left to
 “ give. He was a very polite, well bred,
 “ sensible man, and entertained me in an
 “ agreeable manner upon various occur-
 “ rences and subjects relative to what he
 “ had observed there, and in many other
 “ parts of the world.

“ For the honour of the English na-
 “ tion, I can assure you, that our prisoners
 “ were always treated with great huma-
 “ nity, &c.

“ There is an odd kind of language,
 “ mere jargon, called *Lingua Franca*,

ship in Vado-Bay, she was sunk and lay under water
 some time, by which unfortunate accident he lost some
 of his most valuable curiosities.

“ which is spoken in the *Levant*, composed of *Italian*, *French*, and *Spanish*:
“ and it is also the common language in
“ almost all the *maritime towns* in the
“ *Mediterranean*; hence it is necessary to
“ be acquainted with it in these destinations. It is not taught grammatically;
“ but I soon acquired enough of it by conversation to serve my purpose.

“ Upon our return from this cruise into
“ the *Mediterranean*, while some of the
“ fleet lay near *Leghorn*, I was desired,
“ with other surgeons, to visit a Scotch
“ surgeon of character, who was settled
“ there, in order to consult about a tumour
“ upon his breast of the glandular kind *;
“ and it was our unanimous opinion, that
“ it should be speedily extirpated, as it had
“ a threatening cancerous tendency; but in
“ this very populous town, an expert sur-

* A few years ago my opinion was asked in a similar case; but the gentleman, who had lived very intemperately, would not submit to the operation, and died miserably.

“ geon

“ geon was not to be found to perform the
 “ operation, and he was obliged to take
 “ a journey to Florence on this account,
 “ more than 40 miles from hence; in
 “ which fine and large city and university,
 “ the capital of the grand duke of Tus-
 “ cany’s dominions, many high characters
 “ in both branches of the medical art re-
 “ side.—The river Arno adds greatly to
 “ the beauty of this elegant town.

“ I have had the honour of attending
 “ an officer of high rank and character in
 “ the army twice to *Rome*, which journies
 “ afforded me great pleasure, and gave me
 “ opportunities of inquiring into the pre-
 “ sent state of physic and surgery in *Italy*;
 “ but I was extremely concerned to find
 “ the medical art there not in the repute it
 “ was formerly.

“ Since the fall of the *Salernian-School*,
 “ only *Bologna* and *Padua* are in credit for
 “ the study of this science, where there
 “ are some eminent professors; and at the

“ latter university the great *Morgagni*
“ presides, and supports the reputation of
“ it with dignity.

“ I could not understand, that even at
“ *Rome* itself there are any physicians who
“ now remarkably distinguish themselves,
“ where the illustrious *Baglivi* once shined
“ as a star of the first magnitude.

“ That brave officer who honoured me
“ with his friendship, was thought to be
“ the best engineer in the army; and when
“ he was, some time after my attending
“ him to *Rome*, appointed to conduct the ex-
“ pedition against *Pondicherry* which proved
“ unsuccessful, he pressed me to attend him
“ as surgeon to the train of artillery, with
“ the prospect of being enriched by the
“ spoils of our enemies; but I declined the
“ offer, fearing the climate would not agree
“ with me, as I had been subject to a
“ spitting of blood in the *Levant*, &c.
“ Vain are the hopes and expectations of
“ mortals! Upon the first attack a
chain-

“ chain-shot deprived this hero of both his
 “ legs and life, leaving much to fame, and
 “ unhappily no person properly qualified to
 “ fill his post.

“ After my delightful excursions to
 “ Rome, our ship being stationed in the
 “ Mediterranean near the island of Sardinia,
 “ it was appointed to carry the king of Sar-
 “ dinia's archbishop to his see at Cagliari,
 “ whom we found a very agreeable affable
 “ man, about 30 years of age.

“ Stormy weather and adverse winds
 “ made our voyage tedious, but then it
 “ gave me an opportunity of enjoying
 “ much more entertaining and useful con-
 “ versation with his lordship, in the most
 “ pleasing and familiar manner, which fell
 “ principally to my share; as I happened
 “ to be almost the only person who spoke
 “ French tolerably, which he spoke in
 “ perfection, and also the Latin tongue
 “ fluently; but he chose to converse in
 “ French. In the course of our conver-

F 3

“ sation

“ station upon various subjects he informed
“ me, that he believed there were not
“ many conspicuous characters among the
“ physicians or surgeons even at Turin, the
“ capital of the king of Sardinia’s do-
“ minions.

“ Soon after this, when we lay off *Genoa*,
“ *Sir John Sinclair*, a Scotch gentleman,
“ one of the *king of Sardinia’s* officers,
“ came on board our ship, to ask my
“ opinion concerning a complaint of his
“ arm, &c. and considering his station
“ and character, I thought it prudent to
“ advise a consultation; and *Genoa* being
“ the nearest large town, thither I attended
“ him on this account; but the faculty
“ there, in neither branch, seemed to shine
“ in their profession.

“ This gentleman’s case was more chi-
“ rurgical than physical; the method I
“ proposed in consultation was put in
“ practice, and happily succeeded, in per-
“ fectly curing this gallant officer in a

“ short time, who entertained no high
 “ opinion of the *Genoese* *Æsculapii*: and,
 “ indeed, those who had attended him be-
 “ fore in the army had not treated the case
 “ judiciously.

“ In this city is a large hospital, which
 “ I visited attentively. It is neither well
 “ built nor under good regulation and go-
 “ vernment, nor is the practice exemplary;
 “ and indeed I saw none that pleased me in
 “ *Italy* either in construction or otherwise.
 “ The bedsteads are made of iron, that
 “ they may not harbour bugs; it is the only
 “ thing worth notice in this house, which
 “ is neither properly ventilated nor kept
 “ clean.

“ I suppose I could not omit acquaint-
 “ ing you among other occurrences in the
 “ course of the war, with my going upon
 “ the expedition intended for the bom-
 “ bardment of *Naples*; of which scene of
 “ destruction the Neapolitans have parti-
 “ cular reason to be horribly afraid, as the
 F 4 “ houses

“ houses in general are flat-roofed and
“ much exposed. When the mortars
“ were elevated and ready to play, waiting-
“ only for the signal, in conjunction with
“ canonading, a grandee came on board our
“ commodore’s ship, and acceded to arti-
“ cles, which were soon after broken ; so
“ was this grand design frustrated,

“ I very much wished for the opportu-
“ nity of visiting this famous city, which
“ makes the most splendid and magnificent
“ appearance to the sea of any in the
“ world, the superb buildings gradually
“ rising to a stupendous height in the form
“ of a crescent like an amphitheatre from
“ the shore, which I could descry with my
“ glassess ; and really I could not view such
“ a delightful place, and think of its im-
“ pending devastation, without having my
“ mind filled with concern, though in a
“ state of hostility : and the inhabitants
“ were then threatened with an eruption
“ from mount Vesuvius, &c. Here I saw
“ flames

“ flames proceeding from the volcano at
 “ Stromboli,

“ The plan I hinted to you in a former
 “ letter, which I purposed to follow upon
 “ the conclusion of the war, was, first to
 “ attend a due time in *London* to every
 “ thing relative to our profession as I did;
 “ and conclude my long peregrination with
 “ an excursion to *Paris*. In consequence
 “ of this resolution, I embarked on board
 “ a small ship in the *Thames* bound for
 “ *Havre de Grace*, intending to visit the
 “ celebrated *Mons. Le Cat*, surgeon to the
 “ hôtel-dieu at *Rouen* in *Normandy* in my
 “ way to *Paris*,

“ Neither our ship nor mariners were
 “ of the best kind, and soon after we got
 “ into the channel a most violent storm
 “ arose, proving of long duration, and I
 “ never thought myself in near so much
 “ danger but once before, which was in
 “ the gulph of Lyons. I happened from
 “ long experience, to be well acquainted
 “ with

“ with what was necessary to be done for
“ our preservation in this distress, and
“ wrought truly for my life, which ani-
“ mated the mariners to do their duty and
“ not despair ; by which means, after very
“ great fatigue and difficulty, we gained the
“ destined port.

“ As soon as I recovered from my late
“ fatigue, I went from *Havre de Grace*
“ directly to *Rouen*, where I was received
“ with great politeness and civility by
“ *Monf. Le Cat*, with whom I staid some
“ days. He showed me many anatomical
“ and other curiosities ; but what pleased
“ me most of all was the neatness, with the
“ good government and practice of the
“ hospital where he presided, who is an
“ excellent anatomist, surgeon, and ope-
“ rator. His merit has been distinguished
“ by having a doctor’s degree conferred
“ upon him ; and he has established an
“ academy in his own house, to which
“ many students resort. Few have made
“ themselves so conspicuous in respect to
“ litera-

“ literature and the sciences, as well as in
 “ his profession, as he has done; which his
 “ publications upon various subjects
 “ evince.

“ Upon my departure from *Rouen*,
 “ which was with no small regret, I pro-
 “ ceeded to *Paris* up the *river Seyne*, in a
 “ barge well accommodated. This river
 “ in its course forms many beautiful little
 “ islands, and the adjacent country on
 “ each side of it being delightfully pic-
 “ turesque, made the passage very agree-
 “ able.

“ I have now resided at *Paris* a confi-
 “ derable time, closely engaged in pursuits
 “ for farther improvement in my profes-
 “ sion, which were the motives that
 “ brought me hither,

“ I find that surgery here is still more
 “ regarded than physic, though many emi-
 “ nent physicians are now to be found in
 “ this fine city, where arts and sciences
 “ are

“ are cultivated and flourish under royal
 “ patronage *.

“ The surgeons are excellent and dex-
 “ terous operators, and in general men of
 “ learning; but I cannot approve their
 “ practice of applying to the wounds im-
 “ mediately after amputations, &c., *eau de*
 “ *vie*, i. e. *brandy*, as ardent spirits obstruct
 “ digestion; and from this application I
 “ have observed bad consequences †.

* For some centuries great contentions and animosities were kept up successively from age to age, between the physicians and surgeons at *Paris* as fully appears in the *Histoire de l'Origine & des Progres de la Chirurgie en France*, published upon the establishment of the Royal Academy of Surgery at Paris.

† In the last sixteen amputations which I performed, dressing the stumps in the plain, easy, simple manner described in Vol. II., I did not lose one patient; and in general no threatening symptoms supervened. Since my infirmities obliged me to desist from the operative part of surgery, I have been concerned in many such operations, wherein that treatment was attended with the same happy success. These considerations make me think highly of the method, which I have strongly recommended to my brethren.

“ The

“ The *hôtel-dieu*, the largest, and, per-
 “ haps, the worst built and governed
 “ hospital in Europe, is situated near the
 “ centre of this great and populous city ;
 “ into it are annually admitted about
 “ 20,000 patients, out of which at least a
 “ sixth part generally dies. It is not to be
 “ wondered that there should be such
 “ mortality, considering what numbers are
 “ crowded together in bad wards, and often
 “ four or more in one bad bed ; whence
 “ the air they breathe must be corrupted
 “ to such a degree, by effluvia from their
 “ morbid bodies, as to prove very destruc-
 “ tive, and in a manner pestilential †.

† This hospital having lately been burnt, may be
 considered as an happy accident ; for probably the king
 of France will have the inconveniences, very justly
 complained of, remedied in rebuilding it, which will
 well recompence the loss by preserving the lives of his
 poor subjects.

I have been credibly informed, that the largest and
 most magnificent structure for an hospital in Europe is
 built or building at Lisbon, upon a plan drawn by Mr.
 Carr a famous architect at York ; for which the king
 of Portugal rewarded him with princely liberality.

“ It

“ It is quite otherwise in the *hospital de*
“ *la charité*, where I chiefly attend ; here
“ not more than about one in twenty dies.
“ This is well ventilated, kept neat and
“ clean, and every thing in good order,
“ under the regulation and management
“ principally of *Monf. Faget*, a surgeon of
“ great eminence, and a very humane, well
“ bred, polite gentleman : and sorry I am
“ to tell you, that is not the character of
“ *Monf. B——u*, senior surgeon of the
“ *bôtel-dieu* : he is morose, and seems to
“ want the necessary feelings of humanity.

“ I visit this hospital only upon parti-
“ cular occasions, for many reasons, espe-
“ cially on account of the multitude of
“ barbers garçons who flock hither ; mak-
“ ing the attendance very disagreeable, as
“ well as the very early hour at which the
“ surgeons here do their business.

“ Here are two other well-regulated
“ hospitals, which I frequently visit ; in
“ one of them the great *Monf. Morand*
“ pre-

“ presides; in the other *Monf. Louis* is
 “ surgeon, a young man of a very promif-
 “ ing genius, whose courfe of operations I
 “ now attend. This has given me a fair
 “ opportunity of mentioning to him the
 “ ufe of your retractor and fuccefsful me-
 “ thod of amputation above the knee, in
 “ order to prevent a projection of the end
 “ of the bone to which he adverted *.

* I have had ample and fatisfactory experience of this method for more than 30 years in patients of my own and thofe of other furgeons, to convince me of the utility and advantage of it in preventing a conical ftump.—See my cafes and remarks relative to amputations in Vol. II.

Doctor Kirkland, of Afhby de la Zouch in Leicefterfhire, faid in a letter to me lately. “ I have had opportunities of fhewing feveral furgeons in this and the “ neighbouring county, your method of amputating “ above the knee to prevent the inconveniences of a “ conical ftump, with which they are very much “ pleafed.”—And I have the pleafure to obferve the like advantage from this practice in the Norfolk and Norwich hofpital, where Mr. White’s improved method of amputating the leg with the flap promifes fuccefs.

“ I now

“ I now also diligently attend the public
“ lectures at *St. Côme*, given by *Monf.*
“ *Puzos*, upon midwifery and some diseases
“ peculiar to women, in the most judicious
“ manner.

“ I am very happy in being personally
“ acquainted with this eminent man. I
“ have taken down the heads of his lectures
“ in writing, intending to put them into
“ some better order at my leisure (having
“ now much upon my hands), to show you,
“ when I have the pleasure of paying my
“ respects to you in Norfolk. In mid-
“ wifery, I think, he excels *Monf. Gregoire*,
“ who has long been a celebrated teacher
“ of this art at *Paris*, whose lectures I have
“ also attended †.

Some

† Since the death of *Monf. Puzos* his valuable Works
had been published in Quarto, by *Monf. Morisot Des-
landes D. R. de la Faculte de Médecine de Paris*; in which
are contained three excellent dissertations concerning
depositions of milk in lying-in women, and the great
swellings often attending their thighs and legs in that
situation, resembling those of an anasarcaous nature,
which

Some remarks and considerations relative to the performance of amputation above the knee, by the single circular incision.

In April 1774, I was joined in consultation with several other surgeons, in the case of a lad about 15 years of age, belonging to the Belchamp-house of industry in the county of Suffolk. The propriety of amputation was indisputable, and the single instead of the double incision, which I proposed to the consideration of my brethren, was unanimously assented to and performed in the following manner.

After drawing up the teguments as far as possible, fixing them tight and very

which have not been considered sufficiently, by any other writer, as far as I can recollect.

Those surgeons and accoucheurs who are not acquainted with the French language, have reason to wish for a good English translation of this very useful practical book.

exactly with a narrow band *, before straitening the tourniquet-ligature, the operation was performed by Mr. Revans, of Halesworth, who made the incision quick and dexterously, with great exactness, quite round to the bone, resolutely at once, rather lower posteriorly and internally, than anteriorly and externally, as the band directed, considering the different attachments of the muscles; which were then carefully dissected from the periosteum, and drawn up with the retractor, as formerly described, so that after the use of the saw, the end of the bone was concealed full two inches in the muscles †.

This

* The band may be about an inch broad, made of firm linen cloth, or thin leather spread with common plaster; and in order to increase its power, it may have a slit in the middle, and be used like the uniting-bandage.

† See chapter upon amputations in Vol. II. and what Mons. Louis says upon this subject in the *Mem. de l'Acad. Roy. de Chirurgie, Tom. II. & IV.* in the latter of which this eminent surgeon mentions his having had compressions successively made, upon the crural artery

This manner of operating succeeded to our wish, leaving a flat even stump, which was completely cicatrized in less than two months, having had but little exfoliation from the bone, as Mr. Revans informed me; and since that he has also assured me it is the best stump he has ever seen, ascribing it to the manner of amputating, and the treatment afterwards.

The following method in this case was used to keep down the teguments and muscles during the cure of the stump, which I have practised more than forty years, much to my own satisfaction, and the approbation of many of my brethren.

As soon as the tension was over, and the wound well digested, I used to apply a cir-

artery in the inguen, in some amputations that he performed, where there was not room to apply the tourniquet to the thigh. The celebrated Mons. Petit many years ago preserved the life of a nobleman, by inventing a machine to serve such a purpose, on account of an hæmorrhage happening twenty-one days after amputation of his thigh higher up than ordinary.

cular plaster, moderately adhesive, four or five inches broad, with great exactness, and sufficiently strait down near to the edge of the wound; and then affix to the whole breadth of it, at due distances, six or eight straps of the same kind of plaster of suitable dimensions, with slits in half of them for their opposites to be passed through, over the necessary dressings, and an easy well adapted compress of a sufficient thickness, having a piece of stiff paper placed on the outside of it, in order to increase their power, or make the purchase the greater, and the pressure more regular; directing an assistant to thrust gently and evenly down, with both his hands, the teguments and muscles, while I drew the straps properly strait at discretion, and secured the ends of them when reflected, with a narrower circular plaster; all which could be easily removed, and occasionally renewed, at the time of dressing, letting the other circular plaster remain without renewal, as long as its adhesion effectually answered the purpose. After having proceeded in this manner, I
generally

generally found a knit cap sufficient without any other bandage: and from the great utility of this method, experienced in many instances, I ought not to have omitted the recommendation of it, when I made some remarks upon amputation in a former publication.

This is not the only instance in which I have had good reason to approve the single incision; and should it be found by sufficient experience to answer the end, in general, but as well as the double, in preventing a conical stump*, as mentioned in the second volume, it will indisputably demand the preference; and though from what I have observed, there seldom is much projection of the bone attending the

* I have been informed, by good authority, that a resection of the bone is no uncommon practice at Paris to remedy this inconvenience. My information came by letter from Mr. Else, one of the eminent surgeons of St. Thomas's hospital in London, and his from Monf. Chopart, a Parisian academist, when he visited him in London lately.

double incision when properly made, and the cure of the wound judiciously conducted, yet I have sometimes observed, notwithstanding the utmost care, judgment and attention of the surgeon, some appearance of want of muscular substance, to form a regular well-shaped stump: and as very strait bandage interrupts the circulation, that should be avoided, by all means, in the cure of the wound after either method of amputating, for obvious reasons requiring no explanation, as it obstructs nutrition.

The condition of the patient, the state of the limb, and the part of it where the operation is sometimes found absolutely necessary to be performed, with other concurring circumstances and contingences, may prevent the formation of a good stump under the most skilful management, whether the single or double incision is practised; according as the surgeon may find reason to determine his choice, by duly exercising his judgment in this nice point*.

* See Vol. II. upon amputation.

Considering the different degrees of attachment and adhesion of the muscles, by the intervention of cellular membrane, if kept firmly together, with the narrow band as has been described, it is evident they will be more evenly and regularly divided, by the single than by the double incision; for, upon irritation when the muscles are laid bare, from the nature of their fibres, stimulated by any means, they will contract, more or less, according to their different attachments and degrees of irritability, preventing an even section, if the incision is not at once made, as expeditiously and instantaneously as possible *.

* See two Dissertations lately published by my very worthy friend Doctor Kirkland, of Ashby de la Zouch; the one on the brain and nerves, and the other on the sympathy of the nerves and irritability.

I am inclined to think, and not ideally without the authority of experience, that amputation below the knee by the single incision may also be found preferable, observing what has been mentioned, and cutting the gastrocnemius muscle a little lower than the other muscles, as Mr. Sharp, one of the greatest ornaments of our profession, directs in his operations.

In the preceding case we observed a division of the femoral artery, the branches of equal size running parallel, and so near together, as to be included in one ligature with the needle, taking care to avoid the nerve, after raising them up with the dissecting forceps, by a small portion of the connecting cellular membrane; and here we found no occasion to take up any other vessel. This makes the third instance in amputations of the thigh, in which I have observed such a *lusus naturæ* in the arterial system*, attended with the same circumstances; hence I am induced to think it not improbable to have often happened, though I do not find it has been noticed by any other surgeon. This remark may prove of some practical use, as I have hinted in Vol. I. p. 72, in respect to aneurisms in the thigh.

* These appearances were particularly remarked by many other surgeons who attended the operations besides myself.

Concerning aneurisms in the thigh.

It might indeed reasonably be feared, as there generally is no division in the trunk of the femoral artery, as has been observed, that the collateral and communicating branches should not enlarge sufficiently, by the projectile or impelling force of the blood, to carry on the circulation, and preserve the life and use of the limb, after the operation for an aneurism in this part. This point seems worthy of particular investigation, consideration, and attention; and it proved the subject of some controversy lately, in the case of an aneurism about four inches above the knee of a man upwards of thirty years of age, healthy in all other respects, which was supposed, from the patient's account, to proceed from a fall a year before. When my opinion was asked, I saw no material objection, all things maturely considered, against attempting
the

the operation. Some months after there appeared no hopes of succeeding by it, and scarce any of saving the patient's life by the loss of his limb, as one of the surgeons concerned in the consultation informed me.

After due deliberation and precaution, should an operation of this nature, very precarious in its event, be undertaken without the success which Mr. Leslie, an eminent surgeon at Cork in Ireland, had, as appears in the Edinburgh Medical and Philosophical Commentaries, Numb. VI. P. 176, § 2. the surgeon ought by no means to incur censure, after having taken all prudent and rational measures to preserve his patient's limb, and defend his own character, though he should not have the satisfaction to succeed in the attempt *.

From

* The celebrated Cyprianus, who was professor of anatomy and surgery in the university of Franeker, and the most famous lithotomist of his time, after successfully performing the Cæsarean operation at Lewarden, in which he found the foetus in the right fallopian-tube, wrote

From these considerations, I communicated my thoughts upon this subject to some of my brethren, wishing to have experiments made upon brutes, that might ascertain and determine as far as possible by analogy, a point which appeared to us of great importance to be accurately investigated; and this motive influenced one of them, with the assistance of a person of very superior knowledge in the anatomy and diseases of horses, to resolve upon dissecting out of the thigh of a horse and a dog, the first opportunities that offered, the trunk of

wrote a letter upon that occasion to Sir Thomas Millington, who was archiater to Charles the second; and whom he afterwards happily cut for the stone at 68 years of age in London; in which letter he earnestly encourages surgeons not to be intimidated by threatening prospects, from undertaking dangerous and difficult operations, lest their reputation should suffer for want of success. This letter, written in French, consists of 70 pages, containing a great deal of solid, instructive, practical knowledge in many respects, and was annexed to Belloste's 4th edition of his *Hospital Surgeon*, printed in French at Amsterdam, in the year 1707: and there was also a separate Latin edition of it at Leyden in 1700.

the

the artery alone, the space of two or three inches ; observing whether there was such a division of it as I have remarked in the human species ; which kind of *lufus naturæ* has often been found in the humeral artery ; and then to treat the wound as after the operation for an aneurifm ; attending particularly to all circumstances and consequences.

After having engaged my friends at Norwich in this pursuit, their being prevented carrying the design into execution so soon as they intended and wished, determined me, with the assistance of Mr. Revans, whom I have before mentioned, to perform the following experimental operation upon a full-grown young spaniel, making minutes of what occurred therein, and keeping a journal of the consequences.

On January the 19th, 1775, we performed this operation with very little trouble, having securely bound our patient to prevent interruption. We intentionally included

included in the ligatures, with the trunk of the artery, a little above the middle of the thigh, the vein and nerve accompanying it, at the distance of about two inches, in order to give more weight and authenticity to the experiment should it succeed, than by taking the artery in alone. We discovered no division in the trunk of the artery like what I have observed; and having made the wound of a sufficient extent, succeeded at once in passing the ligatures with the needle, without the least consequent hæmorrhage. The wound was anointed with fresh hog's lard to tempt the dog to lick it more readily; and this application was often repeated, and, at the same time, the whole limb, quite to its extremity, was embrocated with linament. volatil. well rubbed in. After the operation the dog showed no signs of great pain, had no spasmodic motions in the limb, but made no use of it, nor could we feel any pulsation.

20. Nothing

20. Nothing appeared worthy notice, only that there was a good degree of warmth diffused throughout the limb.

21. A little œdematous swelling appeared upon the leg; in other respects as yesterday.

22. The same appearances as yesterday, beginning to move the limb.

23. Moved the limb rather more; wound looked well.

24. Moved the limb more; wound well digested; œdematous swelling less.

25. The upper ligature came off; no hæmorrhage ensued.

26. Wound in a healing state; the dog began to step; œdematous swelling quite dispersed.

27. All appearances favourable.

28. The

28. The other ligature came off without any appearance of blood.

29. The wound was contracted into a narrow compass, purely by virtue of the dog's balsamic tongue, no other application having been used than what was mentioned at first *.

30. No material alteration.

31. The dog used the limb, attended with very little lameness.

Feb. 9. Doctor D'Urban of Halesworth, who attended to the consequences of this

* See what Mons. Belloste says upon the virtues of a dog's tongue, in Vol. II. of his Hospital Surgeon, in his letter from Turin, addressed to his friend Sancassani, counsellor and first physician to the Duke de Guastale. When that eminent man translated Belloste's 1st vol. of his Hospital Surgeon into Italian, he emphatically gave it the character of *Chiron in Campo*; and he revived the practice of *Cæsar Magatus*, under the title of *Magatus Resuscitatus*. Also see a note in Vol. II. relative to the efficacy of a dog's tongue, in a wound that would not admit of cure after cutting for the stone.

experiment, strictly examined the limb with Mr. Revans and me, and we could feel no pulsation in the space, nor in the lower part of the limb, after the wound had been healed some days; though the dog was then brisk, lively and active as usual, without any manner of impediment, that we could observe, in the motion of the limb *.

We kept the dog alive till March the 25th, attentively examining the limb from time to time, without finding any visible defect, shrinking or insensibility of it, and thinking it not likely that any thing more

* The illustrious Morgagni, who was professor of anatomy at Padua says, I think, that Valsalva a famous Bononian professor, affixed ligatures to the carotids of a dog, who lived more than 20 days after, and that probably he might have lived longer had he not been killed for dissection.

See a note upon wounds of the aorta, and its large branches, in Vol. I. and the following experiment made by Mr. Clover, a most excellent hippiator, whose moral character is equal to his abilities in his profession.

remark-

remarkable should appear while he lived, we had him killed for farther inquiry. We had an apparatus ready for injection, but apprehending upon deliberate consideration, that carefully dissecting out the parts, a little beyond where we had performed the operation, and then accurately examining them, would more effectually answer our intention, we omitted the use of it. We did not find the artery divided into two branches, as I have mentioned and described in the human subject, but a ramification evidently appeared much enlarged, by what we observed in the other limb, which departed from the trunk at an acute angle, just above where we had passed the upper ligature in the operation, which was a fortunate circumstance ; and the space between the ligatures then made was filled up with a carnous substance impervious.

Doctor D'Urban was also present at this examination, which completed the experiment as much to our satisfaction as we could expect.

Mr. Clover, a judicious operator and accurate observer, the person whom I have alluded to, made the following experiment upon an horse, of which he communicated to me an account in writing, after I had drawn up the preceding narrative, relating to the operation we performed upon the dog.

“ After having laid the carotid artery
“ bare about the space of four inches, just
“ above the breast, I continued the inci-
“ sion near six inches up the neck; putting
“ a ligature round the lower part of the
“ vessel, and another three inches higher,
“ cutting out the intermediate part of it
“ between the ligatures; and then I ob-
“ served a very strong pulsation against the
“ lower ligature. When I had gently pres-
“ sed the blood downwards, and emptied
“ that part of the vessel a little way, I put
“ on another ligature, tying it no straiter
“ than just to bring the sides of the canal
“ into contact, in order to abate the force
“ of the circulating fluid therein against the
“ prin-

“ principal ligature ; without which pre-
 “ caution our design might have mis-
 “ carried.

“ Dry lint and flour were applied to the
 “ wound to restrain the little effusion of
 “ blood, which proceeded from dividing
 “ some small vessels in the operation ; the
 “ dressings were retained by strips of com-
 “ mon sticking plaster, the hair being
 “ shaved off close a sufficient extent ; and
 “ by the usual treatment the wound digest-
 “ ed and healed kindly, without any ill
 “ accident supervening.

“ When the horse rose, who had been
 “ confined during the operation, I atten-
 “ tively applied my fingers to the jugular
 “ vein, making as strong pressure as is made
 “ by the ligature in bleeding there, but
 “ found no blood in it ; nor could I, by a
 “ strong ligature round the neck, raise the
 “ vein at all. The day after I made trial
 “ again, and found no reason to believe that
 “ any blood passed through the vein, nor

“ yet the next day ; but the day after that,
“ being the fourth, the vein filled upon
“ making the ligature in the usual manner,
“ tho’ but very slowly ; and it was some con-
“ siderable time before it could be distinctly
“ felt ; and when fullest, the vessel ac-
“ quired not much tension, readily yielding
“ to the finger upon pressure. Two days
“ after, by the same means, it rose and
“ filled with blood much quicker ; and
“ then, in a few days, as soon as the vein
“ on the other side of the neck, continuing
“ to do so as long as the horse lived, whom
“ I had killed some weeks after the wound
“ was perfectly healed ; and, upon strict
“ investigation, I could then discover no-
“ thing farther worthy notice ; but it may
“ not be amiss to observe, that the horse,
“ who had long been affected with an in-
“ curable disease, the glanders, did not
“ visibly suffer, in any of his faculties, in
“ consequence of the operation.”

Copy of a letter relative to the treatment of compound fractures, which I have recommended in my observations.

Halifax in Nova-Scotia,
June the 12th, 1768.

“ DEAR SIR,

“ The pleasure of your acquaintance in
“ London, and the advantages since received by your publication, make me
“ most heartily congratulate you upon the
“ reception it very deservedly meets with
“ in the world: and, having an opportunity of writing by a ship going to England, I could not forbear transmitting an
“ account of the success I have had lately,
“ in a very bad compound fracture of the
“ leg, by pursuing your method, believing
“ such communication must necessarily
“ prove agreeable to you.

H 3

A soldier,

“ A soldier, aged about thirty, received
“ this accident last January. I was called
“ to him immediately, and found it necessary
“ to dilate the wound, and saw off between two and three inches of the whole
“ substance of the tibia much fractured,
“ and the fibula was fractured obliquely
“ above two inches below the fracture of
“ the tibia.

“ The wound was dressed as you direct
“ in your observations; the whole limb
“ was wrapped up in a poultice, extended
“ upon a pillow, using the tailed bandage
“ and a stiff paper case, with the assistance
“ also of junks, in order to keep it straight
“ and more steady.

“ By the common treatment of the
“ wound it was perfectly cicatrized in
“ three months, and now, about five
“ months since the accident, the callus is
“ perfectly ossified, the man in good health,
“ the limb useful and well shaped, and but
“ very little shorter than the other.

“ I was

“ I was very attentive in observing the
 “ operation and progress of nature in mak-
 “ ing good this loss of substance of the
 “ bone, and before exfoliations were cast
 “ off from the ends, a portion of the bone
 “ being sawn off at each end, granulations
 “ appeared like flesh in the intermediate
 “ space, gradually becoming bone as you
 “ have observed *.

“ The advantages of this practice evi-
 “ dently appear in its support; the free
 “ openings and removal of pointed frag-
 “ ments of the bone at first, prevent irri-
 “ tation of the very sensible membranous
 “ parts, whence proceed inflammation and
 “ abscesses in consequence thereof: and it
 “ was very pleasing to others as well as
 “ myself, to observe what little complaint
 “ the patient made, and how expeditiously
 “ the cure was accomplished.

* See Vol. II. relative to a compound fracture,
 where about five inches of the tibia was successfully
 taken out.

“ I am persuaded was this rational practice general, few limbs would require amputation on account of splintered bones; and happy would it be indeed, did this method prevail universally in the army and navy*.

“ I am, with great respect,

“ Dear Sir,

“ Your much obliged

“ humble servant

“ CHARLES HALL,

“ Surgeon to the 14th Regiment.”

* When I dwelt in Norwich, I was called into the country by a surgeon in great business, expressly to assist in an amputation, in consequence of an accident of this nature; to whom I proposed and recommended the method here mentioned; he readily assented to it, by which means the limb was saved, and made perfectly useful.—I am fully convinced of the propriety and utility of this treatment of compound fractures, from an uninterrupted series of success attending it, having never been obliged to amputate a limb on such an occasion.

See Vol. II, concerning compound fractures.

A letter

A letter concerning a compound fracture, attended with a profuse hæmorrhage from the medullary artery.

Shottisham, May 4, 1769.

“ DEAR SIR,

“ I was called two days ago to Mr.
“ Brewerton’s son, of Hethell, on account
“ of a compound fracture in his leg,
“ attended with a very profuse hæmorrhage. Upon enlarging the wound I expected to have discovered the bleeding vessel, and secured it by needle and ligature; but it eluding my search, I sawed off a portion of the tibia, which projected, imagining I should find it between that and the fibula; then I found the blood proceeded with great impetuosity from an artery running in the upper part of the cavity of the bone. I tried
“ various

“ various methods to stop the blood with-
“ out effect, only temporarily during pres-
“ sure upon the end of the bone, and have
“ called my friend Palgrave to my assist-
“ ance. Not succeeding in our endea-
“ vours, pray come with Mr. Brewerton
“ as speedily as the length of the journey
“ and your infirm state of health will per-
“ mit, for we apprehend the patient’s limb
“ and life to be in great danger.

“ I am,

“ SIR,

“ Your much obliged

“ humble servant,

“ T. FULCHER.”

After

After having considered every circumstance relative to this hæmorrhage, which proceeded from the medullary artery, not only running in the cavity of the tibia, but being also encompassed by a distinct boney case like a quill, as discovered with the probe, I proposed to the consideration of these gentlemen the making two perforations adjoining, from the end of the bone, with a very small crown of a trephine, which I had made on purpose some years ago to perforate a carious tibia. They concurred in this method, and it was immediately put in practice, and brought the artery in view, which appeared to be nearly the size of a crow's quill. After this dry lint alone, with moderate perpendicular pressure, effectually answered the end, without any consequent bleeding, and the patient has an useful limb.

In this singular case the artery being attached to the distinct boney tube, could neither retract nor contract; nor was there any substance to be formed into an eschar
by

by the actual cautery, or any other application to stop the hæmorrhage *.

A singular case in which the head of the os femoris was separated from the neck by a fall.

In January 1765, a corpulent gentleman, about fifty-five years of age, fell off a ladder some yards from the ground, upon the great trochanter, and was immediately deprived totally of the use of his limb. More than three months after the accident, I was consulted with his surgeon in ordinary, when I found him upon crutches; but without power or ability in the limb, to support any share of the weight of his body, or bring his foot forward in order to

* I believe this may be considered as an unprecedented case, having made strict inquiry to this purpose of many surgeons of hospitals, and others in the greatest practice in different parts of the kingdom, who have assured me they never observed nor heard of one like it.

make

make a step, without pain and difficulty, even with the assistance of his crutches. Observing then a considerable shortness of the limb, with such other circumstances and appearances as generally attend a fracture of the neck of the thigh-bone, I believed that to be the case.

After the strictest examination of the limb, and receiving an accurate relation from the patient concerning his manner of falling, and other circumstances, no doubt remained upon my mind as to the nature of the case: however, as two surgeons of character, who had attentively examined the limb together soon after the accident happened, positively declared they could discover no signs of fracture or dislocation; and the surgeon in ordinary now present being still of the same opinion, I thought it prudent in regard to myself, as well as for the greater satisfaction of the patient, to propose having the case circumstantially drawn up by us, and sent to Mr. Pierce at Bath, a surgeon of the greatest eminence

and integrity, who, from his long experience and practice there, I apprehended was the most competent judge, both as to the nature of the case, as well as to advise the most probable means of affording relief under the present alarming and threatening circumstances.

This proposal meeting with the concurrence of the patient and the surgeon, it was directly pursued: and Mr. Pierce in his answer gave his opinion, that it was a fracture of the neck of the bone, advising, at the same time, what he thought necessary to be done till he should be able to bear a journey to Bath, where he expected he might find relief.

Upon the gentleman's arrival there, Mr. Pierce confirmed his former opinion concerning the nature of the accident, and also gave farther expectation that bathing probably would prove beneficial, but in the event he was disappointed, according to his following letters to me, which is not to be

at

at all wondered at, considering the peculiar circumstances of the case, that appeared after the patient's death *.

On account of a bad state of health, which was brought upon this gentleman by a sedentary, inactive life, the reverse of what he had been accustomed to before this accident, he had recourse to Bath a third time, but without any hopes now of receiving advantage in respect to the debility of his limb, which remained quite useless; and there he died.

The surgeon who now attended him, Mr. Pierce being dead, was desired to open the limb, in order to discover the nature of the mischief; which he did in the presence of his physician and apothecary, and sent the head of the bone to his relations in the country, from whom I had it; and the following abstract taken from the nar-

* See Mem. de l'Acad. Roy. de Chirurg. Tom. 4. sur la Fracture du Col du Femur, par Mons. Sebatier.

rative sent with it signed by the physician, the surgeon, and the apothecary, contains every material circumstance, relative to the state in which the parts appeared, at the time of the patient's death.

What appeared upon the dissection.

After having laid the joint and the adjacent parts open and fairly in view, the neck of the os femoris was found separated from the head, in somewhat an oblique direction, lying in its acetabulum, with some fragments of cartilage broken off from the edge of it, and hanging by small portions of the lacerated capsular ligament. The cartilage which covers the head of the bone, and that which lines the acetabulum, were eroded by acrid matter in many places. About four-fifths of the broken irregular surface of the neck of the bone was forced upwards, and rested against the os ilium, where it was restrained in some measure from going further, by a bridle from part of that ligament, but more by
the

the resistance of the muscles. There was no coalition of the small parts of the broken surfaces which were in contact, nor the least appearance of callus; in the generation of which, probably, nature might have been interrupted by keeping the limb in motion, the case at first not being deemed a fracture, consequently the patient was put upon crutches too soon, and encouraged to make use of them, bearing upon the limb as much as he could; and this of course opposed the cure, and forced the bone higher up.

Du Verney and Ruysch, two very eminent surgeons and anatomists, have been too peremptory, as appears from undoubted more modern authorities, in asserting that the head of the os femoris is never thrown out of its acetabulum, unless owing to some disease therein, or about the joint. It certainly does require, in general, a much greater force to dislocate the head of the bone than to fracture the neck of it, as may be concluded from its weakness there

and position, and considering how securely the head is confined in the cavity, by the very strong round ligament, and the joint being encompassed with the bursal ligament and many strong muscles *.

R E M A R K S

Submitted to the consideration of my brethren.

As the muscles act upon the bones, when their resistance is taken away or diminished in an oblique fracture of the leg, where both bones are broken, and more especially in such a kind of fracture of the thigh, for obvious reasons, the limb will consequently be immediately shortened, by the natural

* See what Mr. Travis, an ingenious surgeon at Scarborough, says upon luxations of the thigh in the London Med. Observations and Inquiries, Vol. II. and Mons. Pouteau, in his dissertation upon this subject, in his *Melanges de Chirurgie*, who is a surgeon of great repute and merit at Lyons.

con-

contractile power of the muscles*: and when that action ceases, and they become quiescent and inactive, or in a passive state, the supervening tumefaction of the parts will enlarge their diameters, and in proportion increase their shortness, whence it necessarily follows, that one end of the bone will be gradually drawn over the other, upon some such mechanical principles, as a rope by being wetted will shorten, and raise or draw a great weight.

Hence it appears of great consequence to endeavour to prevent inflammation and tension at first, and, after gradually and gently extending the limb to its proper length, and dressing it as art directs, to apply some easy extending machine to counteract that force, without creating pain; continuing the use of it till the callus

* The very learned doctor Battie, in his *Exercitationes de Principiis Animalibus*, and the great Roman professor, Baglivi, in his dissertation, *De Fibra Motrice*, have demonstratively shown the nature of muscular fibres, &c.

has acquired a sufficient degree of firmness or solidity to resist it: but when we happen not to be called before tumefaction, &c. supervene, we must remove those accidents as speedily as we can, before we proceed in this manner.

In a fracture of the neck of the thigh-bone, besides some well adapted extending machine, it may be found very necessary to apply a plaster compress, or some other easy suitable pad, of a sufficient thickness, upon the part where the bone was thrown to, and have it well confined with a roller artfully turned, in order to assist in keeping the fractured parts more steady, and in contact, as much as possible.

Upon these occasions, and even in a fracture of the neck of the thigh-bone, I would recommend, from some experience I have had of its utility, the fracture-box mentioned at the conclusion of the chapter upon fractures, in the second volume of this work, till some better contrivance shall be

invented, it being an object worthy the particular consideration and attention of surgeons of a mechanical genius. It certainly requires but very little force, in any machine properly and judiciously constructed, and applied, to answer this purpose effectually.

Besides that I have been mentioning, I have had my opinion asked, within two or three years, in three cases wherein the neck of the thigh-bone had been fractured in persons advanced in years, which had been overlooked for many months; and the patients were all deprived of the use of their limbs irrecoverably.

The bones of old people are more compact and brittle than in young, consequently require less force to break them, and more time to reunite them with ossific matter: and it is certainly not advisable to disturb such limbs with a view of preserving their natural motion, it being better to run the hazard of an anchylosis, than no reunion,

by interrupting nature's operation for that purpose.

Mr. Pierce's first letter concerning the preceding case.

Bath, Feb. 15, 1765.

“ DEAR SIR,

“ I have paid that attention to the gen-
“ tleman's case which I shall ever do to
“ those commands you favour me with,
“ and give you my opinion without re-
“ serve. It would be vanity in me to ima-
“ gine you could have any other motive
“ for applying to me, but that of supposing
“ my long residence here, may have af-
“ forded me opportunities of seeing almost
“ all kinds of bad joint-cases, which
“ sooner or later are brought hither. From
“ the symptoms and circumstances of the
“ case now under consideration, which you
“ have

“ have accurately described, I make no
 “ doubt of its being, as you apprehend,
 “ a fracture of the neck of the os femoris;
 “ as the thigh and knee turning outwards;
 “ the limb being much shortened and con-
 “ siderably shrunk; the pain felt in the
 “ course of the sartorius muscle, which
 “ from its origin and insertion must fre-
 “ quently be put upon the stretch, often
 “ causing pain on the inside just below the
 “ knee; and the crepitus which the pati-
 “ ent himself has been sensible of in mov-
 “ ing the limb.

“ This sort of fracture has been very
 “ often overlooked even by able surgeons,
 “ till time has produced symptoms demon-
 “ strating the fact beyond dispute; of
 “ which I have seen several instances: and
 “ in some recent cases I have endeavoured
 “ to preserve the natural length of the
 “ limb by various methods, but not to my
 “ satisfaction.

“ In the present state of this gentleman’s case, I would recommend the application of a warm strengthening plaster, with a strong bandage and confinement, and to come to Bath when he is found in a condition to bear the journey, where, from the great experience I have had of the efficacy of our waters in similar cases, I have good reason to hope he will receive benefit; and, from my situation, permit me to say, my good friend, that, perhaps more have come under my notice, than under any person’s in this kingdom; two of them happened by the power of the muscles, twisting the neck of the bone asunder, without the patients falling to the ground; one of which was the late duke of Portland, and his servant caught him before he fell. The surgeon, who was immediately called on this occasion, pronounced the mischief only a strain, concluding, from the manner of the accident happening, that it could be neither a fracture nor a luxation.

“ The

" The pain increasing, and his grace
 " being subject to arthritic and rheumatic
 " complaints, the physician then consulted
 " was of opinion, as well as the surgeon,
 " that some such matter was fallen upon
 " the part.

" He had recourse to Bath many months
 " after, and upon strictly examining the
 " limb then, I found it about four inches
 " shorter than the other, with an exuberant
 " callus about the joint and an ankylosis.
 " Here our noble patient found as much
 " relief as could reasonably be expected
 " under such circumstances, and with a
 " high heeled shoe and two sticks,
 " he was enabled to walk a little without
 " much pain.

" The other patient was a gentleman
 " of Bristol, about 75 years of age. The
 " surgeons concerned, when we met in
 " consultation, differed from me in opinion,
 " and would by no means admit of the
 " case being a fracture, for the reason
 " assigned

“ assigned in the preceding case: however,
“ he died a few months after, and the
“ surgeons opened the part, and behaved
“ to me with great candour, confessing their
“ mistake by letter.

“ I am much obliged to you for your
“ kind wishes for my health; but it is by
“ no means such as you, and a few sincere
“ friends, wish me; and I have but little
“ hope of amendment at 68; but in every
“ state and condition believe me,

“ My dear friend,

“ Your's most sincerely

“ and affectionately,

“ JEREMIAH PIERCE.”

Mr.

Mr. Pierce's second letter upon the same occasion.

Bath, *July* the 21st, 1765.

“ MY DEAR FRIEND,

“ I know our friendship is upon such
 “ a foundation, that you will put a favour-
 “ able construction upon any seeming
 “ neglect ; indeed, I should have answered
 “ your last kind letter sooner concerning
 “ our patient, but was willing first to be
 “ able to give you some account to be re-
 “ lied on as to the effect of our waters,
 “ with the probable event in his case.

“ Upon strictly examining the limb
 “ when he arrived here, and considering all
 “ the symptoms you had well described, I
 “ found not the least reason to alter my
 “ original opinion. I resolved to proceed
 “ with

“ with the utmost caution, as our waters
“ have very active principles, as you found
“ by experience in your own case. I there-
“ fore at first permitted him to use only
“ the cross-bath, which is the most tem-
“ perate, and then but for a short space of
“ time at each bathing. As he seemed to
“ receive from hence some benefit, I was
“ encouraged, after a few weeks, to advise
“ the use of the queen’s, and then pro-
“ ceed to the king’s bath *. Having pur-
“ sued this method a proper time, I
“ thought it advisable to try cold bathing,
“ in order to recover the tone or elasticity
“ of the weakened parts, and then I re-
“ commended sea-bathing, for which pur-
“ pose he went to Yarmouth, and it con-
“ cerns me to tell you that I have since

* The degrees of heat vary considerably in the different baths, according to the state of the air, &c. as found by Fahrenheit’s thermometer.

In the cross-bath from 105 to 113.

queen’s from 112 to 115.

king’s from 114 to 117.

hot-bath very nearly the same.

“ received

“ received letters from him, not agreeable
 “ to my wishes and expectations, yet, from
 “ what I have observed in such cases, am
 “ not still without hopes of his walking
 “ in length of time, with an underhand
 “ cane, and a high heeled shoe, though he
 “ must inevitably have a stiff joint.

“ I find you have taken the resolution
 “ to die in harness, and may God prosper
 “ all your undertakings. Without a com-
 “ pliment I assure you I think the whole
 “ faculty obliged to you for your publica-
 “ tion, which you gave me the pleasure of
 “ reading in MS. and

“ I am, my good friend,

“ Yours in all sincerity, &c.

“ JEREMIAH PIERCE.”

Explanation.

Explanation of Plate I. FIGURE 1.

- A. The head of the os femoris, showing the manner in which it was separated from the neck, partly according to the course of the epiphyfis.
- B. The extreme point of the neck of the os femoris, describing how far it was thrown up and rested against the os ilium.
- C. A portion of the lacerated capsular ligament, which might, in some measure, restrain the bone from being forced farther up.

FIGURE 2.

Shows the head of the bone broken off at the neck, as represented in Fig. 1, with some fragments of cartilage together with bone, separated from the edge of the acetabulum, and hanging by small portions of the capsular ligament 1, 2, 3.

These

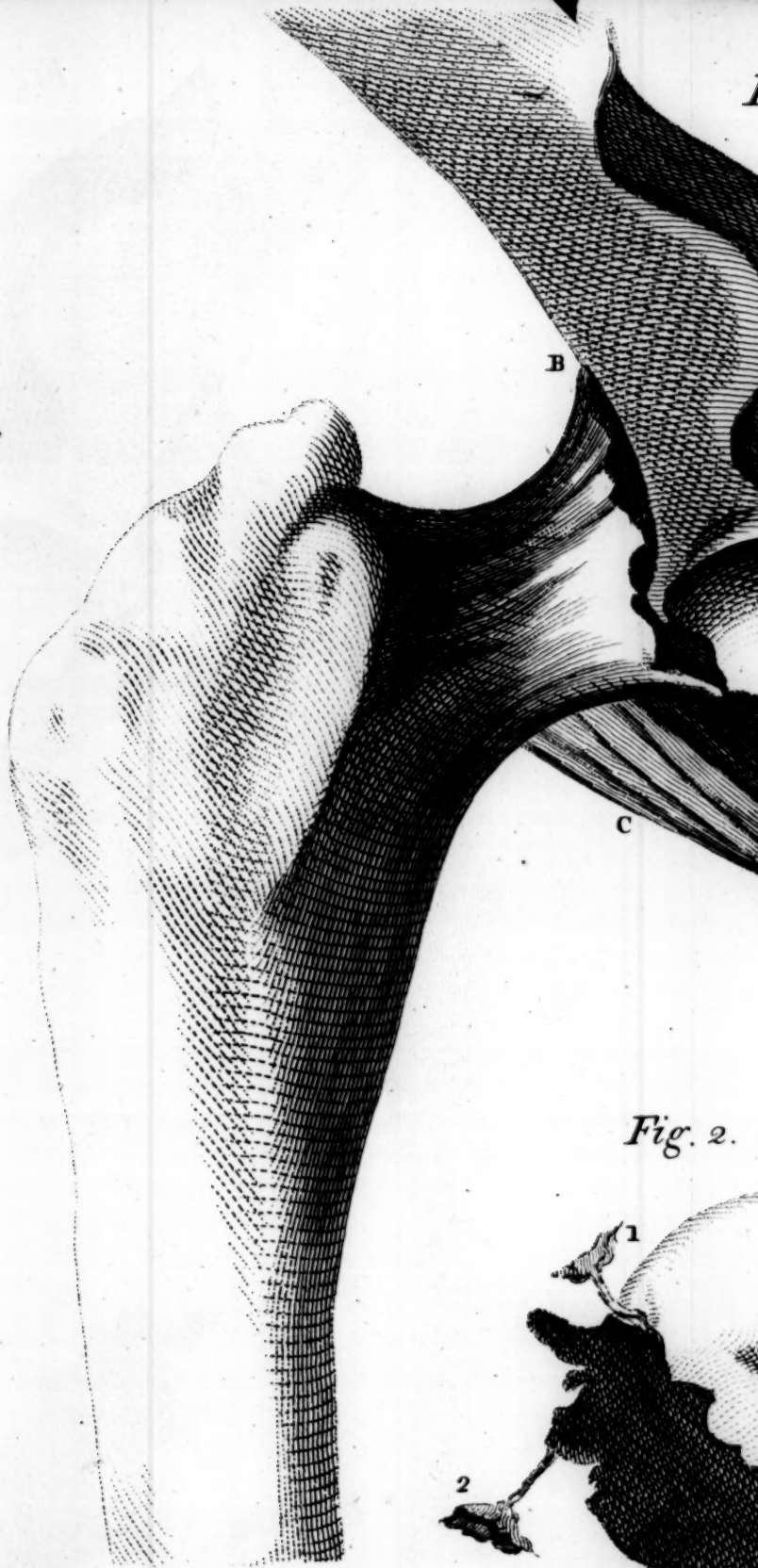


Fig. 2.



Fig. 1.

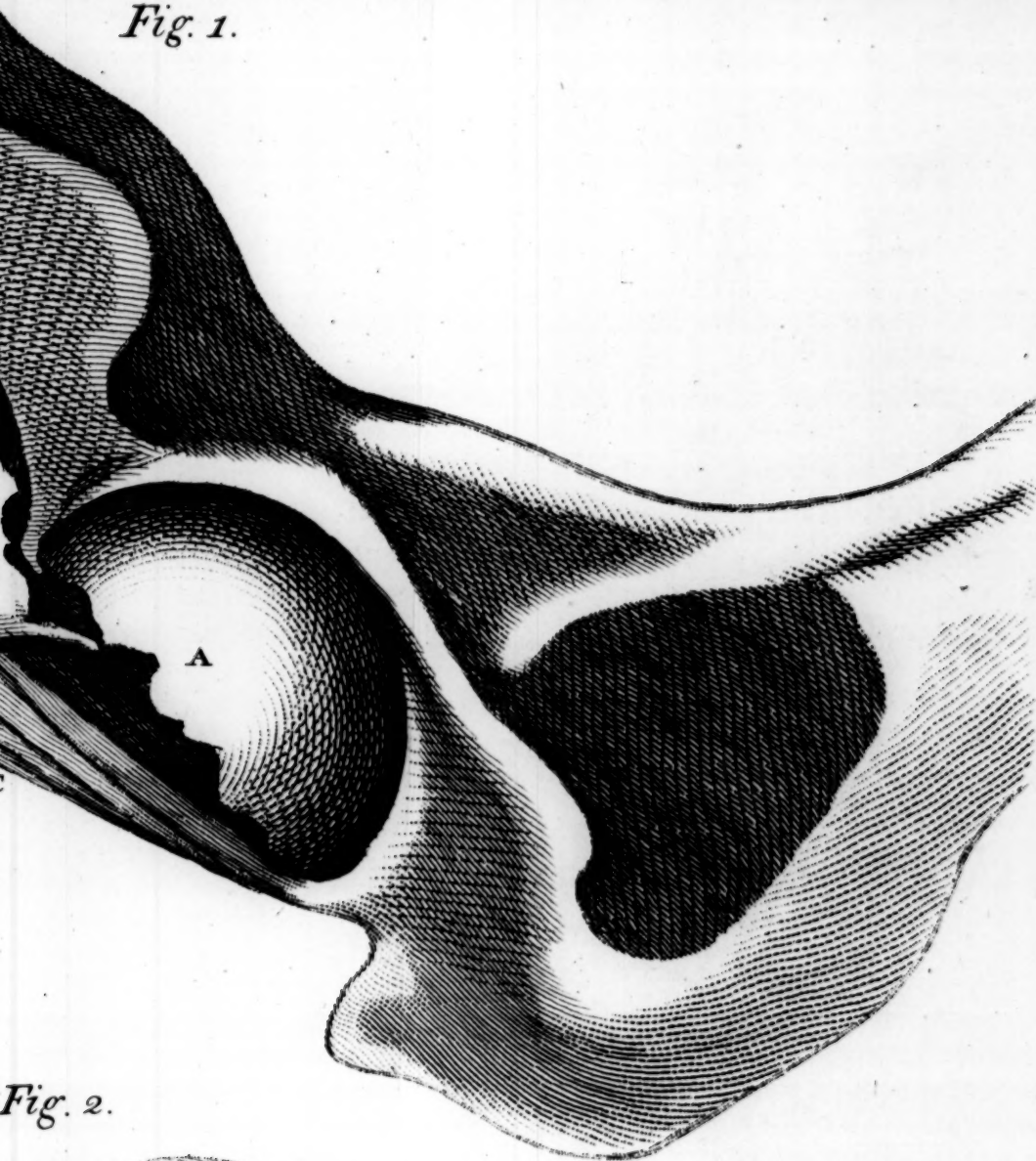
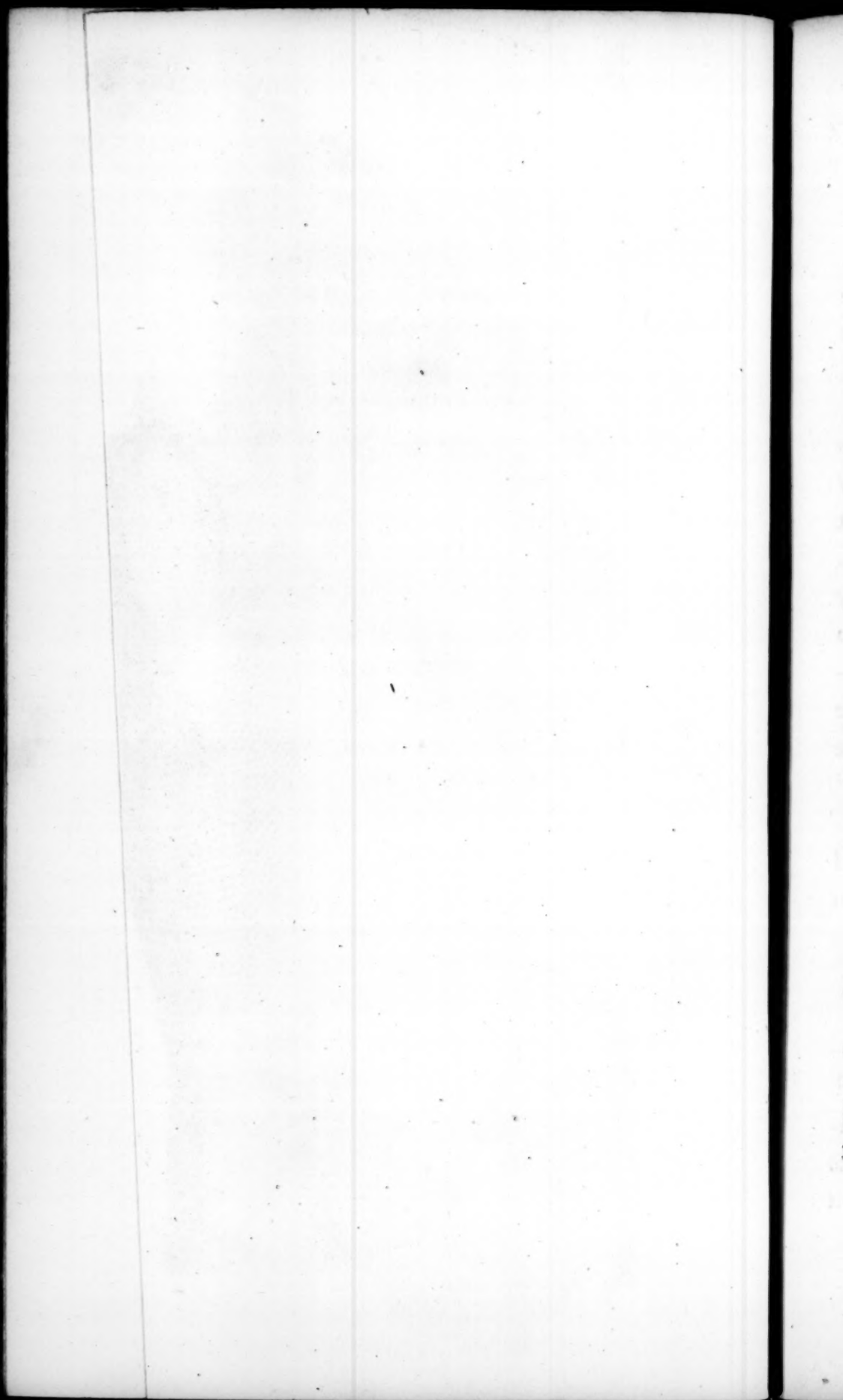


Fig. 2.





These papers were prepared for the press before I had an opportunity of reading Mr. Aitken's Treatise on Fractures. The use of my plain, simple machine, which he has partly adopted for extending a fractured thigh, I have often successfully experienced without any such inconvenience ensuing as he apprehends may arise from the use of it; for the superior fixed point internally rests against the inferior part of the *os innominatum*, which makes a good *fulcrum*, where it requires to be well guarded to prevent galling, by an easy pad properly adapted: hence it appears, that no such strong circular pressure is demanded, as might interrupt the circulation of the blood productive of bad consequences.

The engraver has indeed justly incurred the remark which this gentleman makes, by having expressed too faintly the joints in the pieces which connect the circulars in this machine, to correspond with the knee-joint; though I had as strongly described them in my sketch, as in the extending

ing machine appropriated to the leg, represented in the same plate, to serve the like purpose of giving liberty to move the joint of the knee occasionally.

By the use of the machine and cases which I have recommended, I could safely change the position of the limbs without disturbing the fractures, as different occasions required in the cure of them: and by the addition of hooks and eyes to the sides of the pieces of the machines, which connect the circulars, the knee-joint may be fixed to any degree of flexure that may be thought necessary.

In a fracture either of leg or thigh, I always placed a small pillow under the ham for ease, giving the joint by that means a little bend.

I am apprehensive from what I have observed, that in some cases, laying the limb sidewise, may be attended with inconveniences; but this point must be left to the discretion

discretion of the surgeon according to circumstances: however, in compound fractures, where there is a wound on the outside, that position is impracticable.

When I was in practice, I used to keep by me stiff paper of different thicknesses, having sheet-lead, such as tea is brought home in from the Indies, strongly glued unto it, to prevent its attracting moisture and losing its firmness, in order to form cases and splints, as the different sizes of limbs, and other circumstances should require, which may prove no bad substitutes to the more ingenious and judicious inventions and contrivances of some eminent surgeons in London, &c. for the use of country practitioners, whom I have in view, thinking it no immaterial consideration *.

As to the bandage, which I have described upon the great *Monf. Petit's* plan, in his *Traité des Maladies des Os*, Chap.

* See Vol. II.

xv. for the tendo achillis when ruptured, or otherwise divided, I have also experienced its utility upon several occasions; but as this ingenious surgeon very justly remarks, the application of it is rather troublesome, and requires to be made with particular care and attention, to make it sit easy upon the limb; besides, indeed, it may not answer the design so well, as the machine which he recommends; or that which the late great professor Monro invented in his own case*; but then here likewise the accommodation of practitioners in the country is to be considered, where good mechanics are rarely to be found to procure such contrivances, and this useful bandage can be easily provided upon such an emergency.

To answer the same purpose, I have confined one end of a strong strap of sticking-plaster, of a suitable length and breadth, under a circular piece of the same about the

* See the Edinburgh Essays and Observations Physical and Literary, Vol. I.

middle of the sole of the foot, carrying it over the heel up the leg, and confining the other end above the calf with another circular plaster, first gently and gradually bringing down the muscul. gastrocnem. as far as they will readily yield; giving the limb, at the same time, the position described in the first volume. On the like occasion I have also fixt one strap by the circular about the foot, and another by that above the calf of the leg, passing the one through a slit in the other, and using them as the uniting bandage; but then two more circulars are requisite to confine the other ends of the longitudinal straps securely.

Either of these methods may effectually answer the end, with less trouble than the roller used as has been mentioned; and they are obviously more practicable than that bandage, where there is a wound to be dressed; then a few turns of a roller de-

scribing a figure of 8 about the joint will be sufficient, over an easy compress*.

In fractures of the patella, I have proceeded, much to my satisfaction, upon this principle, with straps of plaster, in order to resist the muscular force, and prevent the superior piece of the bone from being too far retracted.

Of an ovarium, in which were contained many extraordinary appearances.

On March the 6th, 1771, a gentleman consulted me, when she thought herself to be in the 5th month of gestation with her first child. She was of a delicate habit, 25 years of age, and had always been regular in her catamenia, which appeared early. She gave me an account of her

* See Vol. I. concerning the treatment of a division of the tendo achillis, under the article of wounds of the tendons.

having

having felt, for some years, a tumour on the left side of her body, attended with an obtuse, but never an acute pain, low down and deeply situated in the pelvis, according to her own description, which for some time she had been able to bring forward and high up with her fingers, and apprehended it was now in an increasing state very considerably. She also said she had frequent provocation to make urine, always making it in a small quantity, with a degree of pain and difficulty, and had sometimes been obliged to be relieved by the introduction of a catheter.

On account of her pregnant state I could not discover the tumour, with the most careful examination, but she so clearly described it, from her attentive remarks and observations, that after maturely considering every circumstance, I concluded it was an enlarged ovarium, which might compress the bladder, or that there might be some disease in it, to obstruct the emission of the urine. This was the opinion I delivered to

her husband, and her surgeon in ordinary, whom I met in consultation.

This surgeon not being an accoucheur, an eminent one was called to her in the eighth month of gestation, when she was suddenly alarmed in the night, with a considerable discharge of the liquor amnii, without any previous pain or accident; but, discovering no other signs of approaching labour, he did nothing, only enjoined rest, and she slept quietly the remaining part of the night without an opiate. Next day she sat up several hours, having no other symptoms than a small discharge of water upon motion, and a frequent inclination to make urine, which evacuation was attended as usual with a little pain and difficulty. On the third day she ventured down stairs, appearing rather better, and so continued till the 4th day towards evening, when she was seized with a rigor and great coldness of the extremities, which lasted an hour or two, and then were succeeded by a severe fever ~~for~~, attended with frequent vomiting of
of

of a dark coloured bilious matter. In this fever fit she complained of an intense heat, attended with pain and tenderness, extending all over the abdomen, for which no means that the surgeon could think of afforded any relief; she grew worse in all respects without any signs of being delivered, and he thought it not advisable to attempt delivering her entirely by force under these circumstances, fearing she might actually expire even in the operation. On the 7th day in the morning the pain and heat were greatly abated, but she had a very languid, intermitting pulse, denoting a mortification, in which it was apprehended the inflammation might terminate; soon after she became delirious, and died about six in the evening of that day.

The morning after her death, her body was opened, according to her own desire, and both the surgeons were concerned in the dissection.

They found the uterus mortified on the left side, with a foetus of a natural size and form contained in it, which they thought had not been dead many days, and nothing relative to that appeared preternatural. The ovarium on that side was as large as a melon and of an oval figure, beginning also to be mortified. By opening its tunic, which resembled a thick leather bag, there issued out a full quart of an atheromatous matter, in the middle of which was lodged a lump about the bigness of a turkey's egg, in substance like hog's lard, which melted as easily and was as inoffensive; it had a great quantity of brown hair intermixt with it, most in the middle, as appeared upon cutting through it. This substance was not enveloped in a distinct membrane, but was covered all over with hair, twisted and curled in a very wonderful manner, some of which exceeded a foot in length, and had evidently bulbous roots when viewed with a glass; some took root in the centre, others in different depths in this substance from the surface of it, as was discovered by
sections

sections in different directions, examined with the utmost attention; and from the inferior part proceeded a large, long string or rope of hair twisted together something like an elf's lock or the *plica polonica*. At the lower part of the ovarium, were found two distinct irregular bones, in the lowermost of which was fixt a perfect incisive tooth, which proceeded through that bone into a very thick membranous socket, formed between the coats of the ovarium, with an imperfect tooth adjoining to it; and at a little distance from this bone, there was, in such another membranous socket, a complete canine tooth.

The surgeons by whom I was favoured with the parts and the substance of this narrative told me they thought the ovarium on the other side was preternaturally small; but that must be considered a doubtful point, as the size of these bodies in their natural state is very variable and indeterminate,

They

They took no notice of the fallopian tubes, or other uterine appendages; indeed they wanted time to perform the dissection, and to examine the parts with that accuracy which such a curious subject demanded, which seems unprecedented in some respects*.

The

* See Lowthorp's Abridgment of the Philos. Transf. Edit. 3. Vol. III. and Jones's Abridgment of the same Vol. V. p. 295 and seq.—The learned Doctor Tyson and Diemerbroeck, in their works have also something relative to the subject.

Cornelius Stalpart Vander Wiel expressly says, that he, his brother and another surgeon, upon opening the body of a girl of 15 years of age at the Hague, in the year 1682, found an ovarium distended to the size of a goose's egg, with short hair upon it, and a small bone in it, without mentioning other circumstances.

Palfyn, in his Description anatomique des Parties de la Femme qui servent a la Generation, has Swammerdam's fine and accurate plate, representing the uterus and its appendages, dedicated to the noble Tulpus.—Vide etiam Swammerdami notas in Prodrum D. J. Van Horne Tract. de Partibus Generationis, et Regnerum De Graaf de Organis Generationi inservientibus.

Plazzonus

The bladder was much contracted, but the liver and all the other abdominal viscera appeared in their natural state.

I had a long conversation with the surgeons upon this subject, in order to obtain all the information I possibly could.

Plazzonus, an eminent professor of anatomy at Padua, and Arantius, another as considerable at Bologna, wrote learnedly more than a century ago, the one *De Partibus Generationis utriusque Sexus*, and the other *De Foetu humano*; but neither of them, nor our immortal Harvey, *De Generatione Animalium*, have taken notice of any such *lusus naturæ*. In the 15th century, many commentaries written by learned men in different countries, *De Morbis sive Affectibus Mulierum*, were collected and published at Basil in four 4to. vols. which I have examined, but cannot find any thing to this purpose; nor in any other books I have looked into besides those here referred to.

Explanation

Explanation of PLATE II,

*The drawing of which was accurately taken
under my own inspection.*

- A.A.A.A. The bag resembling leather, which was the proper tunic of the ovary greatly thickened, laid open its whole length to show more clearly the substance therein contained, which was like hog's lard, covered all over with hair, curled and stragling beyond its edge, &c.
- B. A long string or rope of hair somewhat resembling an elf's lock, or the plica polonica.
- C. A bone having the periosteum separated from it the whole length.
- D. Another bone having a perfect incisive tooth passing through it into a thick membranous socket between the coats of the ovary, with an imperfect one adjoining to the perfect one.
- E. A perfect canine tooth, at a little distance from this bone, in such a kind of membranous socket, without any bone.
- F.F.F. The part of the ovary by which it was attached to the uterus.



Of unprecedented appearances upon the cuticula.

In September, 1768, Mr. William Wright of Saham-Tony in the county of Norfolk, attorney at law, consulted me upon another occasion, at the Rev. Mr. Parrott's, who is rector of the parish, and I then took a narrative of the following extraordinary case from himself.

He is in the 55th year of his age, his constitution rather weak and lax, but had enjoyed throughout his life, a tolerably good state of health in general, till about ten years ago, when he was first seized, and often since, with such a peculiar kind of fever, that none of the medical gentlemen of great experience, who were concerned for him at different times, knew by what name to characterize it. He is very susceptible of effects proceeding from the

alteration of the state of the air, and the disease has sometimes returned twice in a year, attended with the same symptoms and consequences, upon having perspiration suddenly obstructed, and he observes it generally comes on under that circumstance.

Besides the common febrile symptoms upon the invasion of the disease, his skin itches universally, more especially at the joints, and the itching is soon followed by small red spots; then his fingers become stiff, hard, and painful at the ends and roots of the nails, where, in about 24 hours after, the cuticle begins to separate from the cutis, and in ten or twelve days this separation becomes general from head to foot; and he has many times turned the cuticle off completely from the wrists to his fingers ends like gloves, and also from his feet in the same manner to the ends of his toes. His nails shoot from their roots gradually, as the new ones grow, in about six months, and the pain there decreases as the separation of the cuticle
advanc-

advances; it rises in the palms of his hands and soles of his feet like blisters, but has no fluid under it; every where when it comes off it leaves the skin for some days exquisitely sensible.

Sometimes upon catching cold before he has been quite recovered, he has relapsed and had a second separation directly of the cuticle from the cutis; but then indeed so thin as to appear only like scurf, which shews the quick renewal of this part *.

When I saw him he had not had a violent return of this disorder since the year 1764, but several times in a slight degree, bringing off the cuticle like scurf,

* Monf. St. André, an accurate anatomist in his time, said he had discovered vessels with his injections in the cuticle, and told a friend of mine so; but did not demonstrate what he asserted to the satisfaction of others; and, I believe that curious observer of nature, Leeuwenhoeck, never pretended to such a discovery even by his glasses.

proceeding from the cause which has been assigned.

Soon after I saw him, I had a long conversation on this subject with Mr. Swallow, a surgeon of character at Watton, who confirmed this history, having frequently attended the patient and observed all the circumstances related. He has one of these cuticular gloves in his possession, and Mr. Wright brought a pair in his pocket when he came to me, and gave me one of them; saying, he had given away several to other persons to satisfy their curiosity; but though the matter of fact was so well authenticated, some people would not give credit to it.

When my very good friend Mr. Warner, F. R. S. surgeon to Guy's hospital, favoured me with a visit at my house in the year 1769, he asked me to let him have this curious glove, with a short history of the case, and both were presented by him to the R. S. and he acquainted me by letter
soon







soon after, that the singularity of the case had determined the society to have an engraving of the glove, see plate III, to be published with the history of the case in their transactions, it appearing quite unprecedented. May not the separation of the cuticle be caused by some febrile matter thrown off, affecting the rete mucosum *?"

History of an universal emphysema, communicated to me by an eminent surgeon of my acquaintance, who made minutes of the case at the time when the accident happened, on account of its singularity.

A lad about 14 years of age driving a cart through a gateway, and the horses turning quick, threw him with great violence against an iron catch in the gate-post, between the 4th and 5th ribs; by which

* At Mr. Warner's request on my behalf, the society favoured me with the use of their plate on this occasion.

means the intercostal muscles and the pleura were lacerated, yet without making a wound through the skin.

I was called to him 3 or 4 hours after the accident happened, and found him in a most deplorable condition indeed, apparently ready to expire. By the strictest examination I could not discover a fractured rib, whence I apprehended some air-vessels might be ruptured in the lungs, and that air probably might proceed from thence through the lacerations of the pleura and intercostal muscles, and, being stopped by the skin, was diffused in the cellular membrane throughout the whole body quite from head to foot, which was the condition I found him in, after this short space of time. His face was so inflated that his eyes were entirely closed; his nose could scarcely be perceived, which was almost level with his cheeks.

Under these circumstances I proposed making an opening into the thorax immediately,

mediately, as the most advisable and rational step to be taken; but his friends obstinately opposed all the arguments I could think of, to show the propriety of it, even that the preservation of his life depended upon it in all appearance. I was suffered now to perform no other operation than bleeding, which I could not do, till I had pressed up the air towards the shoulder and also downwards, confining it there with bands, before I put on the ligature in order to bleed him; without which precaution, I might have thrust my lancet in almost its whole length, and not have reached the vein, had that, by the ligature, been sufficiently compressed. He bled freely, after which I left him and ordered a laxative medicine, an emulsion with spermaceti and a pectoral decoction, with the strict observance of a proper regimen, &c.

I visited him again next morning and found him evidently worse in all respects, which induced me in the strongest terms

and more earnestly, to recommend the opening I at first proposed, which was now consented to.

Upon making the opening into the thorax, between the ribs where the injury was received by the catch in the gate-post, as soon as the knife entered, rarified air came rushing out violently, and a great quantity of a hot bloody fluid along with it. Having made an ample aperture, I dressed superficially, in the gentlest manner, and applied an easy bandage, directing him to lie on the affected side, in order to favour the discharge of the extravasated fluid.

When I visited my patient next day I found there had been an immense discharge from the wound, that he breathed easier and that the inflation was universally much subsided. These favourable circumstances gave me some hopes of a happy event; but upon my visit the day following, the scene was changed, the discharge

was very foetid, his pulse and breathing very bad, which destroyed all the hopes I entertained the day before, and the next day he died.

Upon examining the parts after death a lacerated wound was discovered in the lungs, but no fractured rib *.

We drew up this case together as it now stands from the surgeon's minutes.

A case in which air, contained in the cavity of the thorax, produced symptoms of an empyema.

I was consulted on this occasion, with a physician and a surgeon in the county of Suffolk. The patient was about forty

* See an extraordinary case of an emphysema in the London Med. Observations and Inquiries, communicated by Dr. Hunter, occasioned by a fractured rib, and cured in the manner he directed,

years of age, and in consequence of peripneumonic symptoms his lungs became ulcerated, and he had long expectorated purulent matter, attended with great difficulty of breathing; he had also a constant pain in his left side of small extent; and whenever he turned himself from one side to the other, he was very sensible of the motion of some fluid, which fluctuation was heard as well as felt by himself, and sometimes also heard by those about him.

From these symptoms and considerations we were unanimously of opinion, that matter floated upon the diaphragm, making it advisable to perform the operation for an empyema, particularly on account of the fixt pain, as has been mentioned, which was often to a very great degree, especially when he coughed. On making the incision directly upon the painful part, which was between the 6th and 7th ribs, as soon as the knife entered the cavity of the thorax, rarified air, and nothing else, came rushing

rushing out, with an audible, sibilous noise, which was heard by all of us. Immediately after this operation, though no purulent matter was discharged, yet he could lie upon either side, without increase of pain or difficulty of breathing, which he could not do before; however, all things considered, we could not doubt of the case ending in a marasmus.

In this case air must escape through some aperture in the lungs, by the air-vessels, into the cavity of the thorax, and there rarify, producing the complaints, which we ascribed, before the operation, to purulent matter therein contained.

The patient lived several months after the operation, without having any return of pain or sensation of a fluctuating fluid as before; nor was there the least appearance of matter proceeding from the lungs or cavity of the thorax through the wound, which was kept open several weeks, in expectation of such a discharge.

The aperture in the lungs, which we believed admitted the air to pass into the cavity, certainly closed, as he never after the operation, even when the wound was perfectly healed, had any return of symptoms, that evidently proceeded from the rarefaction of the air in the thorax, according to what we have observed.

Leave could not be obtained to investigate this matter, after the patient's death.

At the time when the operation was performed, we could with our fingers feel some hard tubercles upon the lungs, but found very little adhesion of them to the pleura within reach of the finger *.

* See what is mentioned concerning air being contained in the thorax, communicated by Mr. Hewson, in the London Med. Observations and Inquiries, Vol. III. Vid. Boneti Anatom. practic. Lib. II. Sect. I. Observat. 54. & Schol.

Of a very large encysted lymphatic tumour, which was happily extirpated at the Heckingham house of industry in the county of Norfolk.

In November, 1768, I attended a consultation at this house, by the express desire of the governors and the surgeons, in order to consider of the propriety or impropriety of performing an operation on this occasion, which had been deemed extremely dangerous by several surgeons, before the patient was admitted into the house.

She was about 35 years of age and not of a good habit. About three years before, after a lying-in, she took notice of a small tumour on the right side of her body towards the inguen, which raised a suspicion of its being a hernia at first. It gradually increased and extended downwards, adhering

ring to the labium pudendi and anus, turning about in a curve, having a figure and form much resembling the stomach, which ended upon the middle of the hip.

Our consultation was very agreeable, consisting of four surgeons besides myself. We looked upon it as an encysted tumour of the lymphatic kind, degenerating into a cancerous state. After strict examination of the parts, and deliberately considering every circumstance, we thought it might be extirpated with safety, as it was not yet fixt to the subjacent parts; but were unanimously of opinion, that the cure of the wound was very precarious: however, as there was no prospect of preserving her life or affording her relief, by any other means, the operation was approved, and then judiciously performed, by Mr. Lewis, a surgeon of eminence at Bungay in Suffolk, she having been duly prepared for it, in case it should be thought advisable in our consultation.

Great

Great care was taken to secure the arteries, by needle and ligature, as the operator proceeded carefully dissecting, by which precautions the effusion of blood was but small, considering the size and extent of the tumour, which weighed between five and six pounds.

No ill accident happened in, or in consequence of, the operation; the wound digested and healed kindly, and the patient left the house with it perfectly cicatrized in about ten weeks, as Mr. Lewis informed me; though not free from other complaints, and among the rest she had a bronchocele, which did not pass unnoticed in our consultation.

I was concerned the year before in an operation of the same kind. The tumour was situated upon a woman's thigh, in consequence of an accident received ten years before. It extended from a few inches above her knee near to her body, and measured full a yard in circumference. By the
same

same precautions that have been mentioned, we did not here lose more than a pound of blood in the operation: and in both cases, by a wary dissection, the cysts were not opened.

This tumour weighed between twelve and thirteen pounds; the contents of it were inspissated lymph of the consistence of brains, and when contained in the cyst much resembled the brain in the dura mater. Dr. Hay of Ipswich, and Dr. D'Urban of Halesworth, were present at this operation,

The cicatrix in this case remained firm more than a year, and our patient walked about her business; then, upon having a feverish disorder, it broke out in the upper part of it, and became a cancerous ulcer, throwing out large fungous excrescences before she died, as I was informed by the surgeon concerned for her,

In

In both these cases the operation should have been performed much sooner *.

Of bronchoceles.

I have had my opinion asked in a great number of tumours of this kind ; and cannot recollect an instance of their endangering life, even when enlarged to a very great size. From my observation men are not so subject to this disease as women.

It is said, that in some parts of this kingdom, there are persons who undertake to cure this disease ; and some years ago I had a letter upon this subject from a surgeon of character at Coventry, written in a very modest and sensible manner, wherein he acquainted me he had sometimes

* See Mons. Quesnay's excellent Mem. sur les Vices des Humeurs relative to this subject, prefixt to the first Vol. of the Mem. de l'Acad. Roy. de Chirurgie.

succeeded : but, for my own part, I must ingenuously confess, the various methods I have tried to disperse these swellings, even in a recent state and moderate size, have been defeated *; and I never durst venture to attempt the cure by excision, on account of the vicinity of the large blood-vessels.

I was once indeed prevailed upon to be present at such an operation, where the tumour was of a very large size, and the patient's blood in a thin, depauperated state.

Before I went the operation was resolved upon, in a numerous consultation, and all I could do was to show my fears and apprehensions of what would probably attend it, declaring, that were it a patient of mine I would not attempt it.

* I have talked with many eminent hospital surgeons upon this subject, and they express themselves in the same manner, who have the best opportunities of improving our art, and making useful discoveries.

The

The surgeon was a good and intrepid operator; but before he had half finished the operation, there was such an effusion of blood as obliged him to desist, and turn his whole attention to restraining the hæmorrhage, or, in the opinion of all present, the patient would have sunk and died under his hands. She died in less than a week, and I was informed, the blood was never totally stopt. The unhappy event naturally brought the reputation of all the surgeons concerned in question.

I remember another case of this kind, in which my opinion was asked jointly with that of an excellent surgeon in the country, my particular friend *, and the operation was performed against our judgment, by one of the ablest surgeons and most dexterous operators in London, which was very near ending in a fatal hæmorrhage. The young lady's life was preserved, only by

* Mr. Cooper, late of Bungay in Suffolk.

having a succession of persons to keep a constant pressure upon the bleeding vessels day and night for near a week, with their fingers upon proper compresses, after the operator had been repeatedly disappointed in the use of the needle and ligature, &c. as his pupil assured me who attended this case.

I may here add a third similar case, wherein I was consulted, in which the surgeon concerned discovered an earnest desire to attempt extirpation; but I as earnestly urged the arguments I have assigned, which dissuaded him from so dangerous an operation. And Mr. Grindal, surgeon to the London-infirmity, in a letter he favoured me with, mentions an operation of this kind, at which he was present, though it was undertaken against his opinion; and it was attended with a very great effusion of blood; ending also unhappily.

This disease is very frequent in Switzerland,

land, and in the neighbourhood of the Alps, which made Juvenal say,

*Quis tumidum guttur miratur in Alpibus? **

A case wherein matter had been confined in the maxillary sinus, attended with some uncommon circumstances.

Some years ago I was consulted in this case, with a physician and two surgeons, for a gentleman about 60 years of age. This complaint proceeded from a bad fever, and his health in general was much impaired. The symptoms evidently declared the nature of the disease; and the matter had forced its way through one of the nostrils. After considering the circumstances, we agreed to make an opening forthwith, in the usual manner, into the sinus, for the free discharge of the matter.

* I have been told by gentlemen who have been in Swisserland, that this tumour in the throat, called *goutiere*, is far from being there looked upon as a personal deformity.

The patient had lost all his teeth in this part of the jaw-bone, the sockets of which were filled with a bony substance, and by strict examination we found the bone carious. Upon the eligible part for making the perforation he could not bear an instrument for that purpose, without causing exquisite pain, and obliging him to throw his head backwards violently, in a convulsive manner. This prevented our proceeding in the operation as intended, and determined us to cut down to the bone on the side with the point of a knife, and bore into the sinus with a gimblet; which method was easily effected, and answered the end, though not quite so well as the other would have done, in giving a discharge to the matter, with the opportunity of using injections, &c. as the rules of surgery directed. The opening was preserved, sometimes with a leaden canula well adapted to it with ears, and sometimes with a piece of bougie, having a ligature affixed to it to prevent its slipping into the cavity, and in a reasonable time, by the assistance of the

physician's prescriptions, the patient recovered a good state of health *.

Of a tumour upon the region of the stomach, which in length of time burst of itself, and through the opening the aliment passed, the patient living and walking abroad some months after.

In May, 1768, Mr. Aldrich, a surgeon at Halesworth, desired me to visit with

* This case occurred before the fourth volume of the Mem. de l'Acad. Roy. de Chirurgie was published at Paris, in which mention is made of one treated in the like manner, having a plate annexed, describing the operation, by Monf. Bordenave, in his Observations sur les Maladies du Sinus Maxillaire.

Since this I have been concerned in another case of this nature, which had been of five years standing, where there was a large opening into the nose, with an extensive caries of the bones ; which was perfectly cured by the treatment described in the second volume of this work, by making an opening into the sinus the extent of the *alveoli* of three teeth, cutting away their partitions immediately after extracting the teeth.

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him,

him Mrs. Tovell, of Wenhaston, about 60 years of age, of a very thin and delicate habit.

More than 20 years before, in consequence of a slight external injury, which was at first disregarded, she was subject to transient pains in the epigastric region, never violent, nor confined to one spot, but mostly towards the left side. In this state she remained about ten years, when she was seized with a violent fever, in which the pains increased, and a small flat tumour appeared over the bottom of her stomach, without any external inflammation or throbbing; the pain, upon pressure, was not augmented, nor had she any complaint in her stomach at this time.

Though the tumour did not subside when the fever went off, yet she then recovered her former state of health, rather valetudinary; and thus she continued 10 years longer, having very little more uneasiness in the tumefied part than in the abdomen
in

in general, where she had before complained at times; but never to any great degree. Now a fever arising upon catching cold, the tumour enlarged and inflamed, still was attended with but little pain; however, in a few days it burst open, discharging some of the aliment that was in her stomach outwardly, there being an adhesion of it to the *peritonæum*. The next day I visited her with Mr. Aldrich, and my worthy friend Mr. Lynn, of Woodbridge, being then with me, he went with us about six in the evening. Upon removing the dressings, the food she had taken that day for dinner, consisting chiefly of mackarel, came pouring out upon respiration, through the spontaneous opening now grown pretty wide. We applied puff-ball carefully to the aperture, and confined it with strips of common plaster, easy compress, and a flannel bandage, in order to prevent the escape of the aliment all we could, desiring she would make her diet consist of the softest and most nutrimental things, that would in the easiest manner be converted

into nourishment; as bread-pudding, jellies, sago, faloop, &c. to be taken often in small quantities to avoid too much distention of the stomach, injoining rest in a supine posture for obvious reasons; and that recourse should also be occasionally had to nutritive clysters: however, notwithstanding these injunctions which we strongly urged, when I visited her again three days after, I found her abroad about her business as usual, and then actually feeding her young chickens, sitting upon the ground; for which inconsiderate act I very earnestly reproved her. She now told me, that but little of what she took came through the opening; that the dressings, compress and bandage, sat easy, and answered their end very well; that her food agreed with her stomach; that she had no sickness, and that she had the benefit of a stool naturally every day as she used to have.

Before I left Halesworth, being then at doctor D'Urban's, I saw her dress several times, observing no ill appearance in the
ulcer,

ulcer, and that but very little aliment passed through it. Afterwards I was informed she took a sufficient quantity of nourishment to support her, without losing flesh, and that nothing unfavourable occurred in this extraordinary case, till the latter end of August, when, through negligence, she caught cold, and a violent fever ensued. After the danger of this fever was apparently over, she relapsed in consequence of farther indiscretion, and forfeited her life.

Doctor D'Urban, who had visited her also, attended the opening of her body with the surgeon. The liver was considerably enlarged, and had forced the stomach too much to the left side; but they observed nothing else remarkable in the dissection, only a firm adhesion of the *stomach*, *liver*, and *peritonæum*, about the aperture: and it was their opinion, that with her own prudent care, her days might have been prolonged, had not the ulcer been perfectly healed. The adhesion of the *stomach* to the *peritonæum* was the evident means of

her preservation, upon the rupture of the tumour, by preventing the aliment, &c. from falling into the cavity of the abdomen *.

Of the singularly good effect of merc. sublim. corrosiv. in a cancerous case.

In June, 1766, a gentleman's wife, of a delicate habit, aged 45, consulted me concerning a most alarming complaint, contracted by inadvertently putting a pipe into her mouth, and blowing it clean, immediately after her sister had used it, in sucking down some aliment, that being the only way she was able to take any on account of a cancerous ulcer passing quite through into the mouth, under her lower jaw. She was almost instantly sensible of a twinging near the tip of her tongue, and soon after in her lips, and most parts of her mouth. In a short time her husband complained of

* Relative to this case, see in Vol. I. an account of wounds of various kinds inflicted on the stomach.

the like sensation in his lips, &c. which proceeded only from kissing her *.

Various methods were tried first at home, then in London and abroad, under the ablest practitioners, but all to no purpose, the disease gaining ground under all of them.

After two years she returned from Brussels to England, on account of some emergent domestic affairs, and her husband went to Paris to consult the faculty there,

When she came to me she had deep, spreading ulcers in her tongue, sides of her mouth, tonsils and fauces; from the appearance of which, and the history she

* Turner says, that Mr. Smith, who was surgeon to St. Thomas's hospital, lost his life in consequence of his imprudent curiosity, by touching with his tongue, the fluid proceeding from a cancerous gland, after taking off a breast so diseased. See a cancerous case in Vol. II. which proceeded from drinking some liquor impregnated with the matter that issued from an ulcerated cancer.

gave

gave me of her case, I could not doubt of its nature; besides, I had once seen her sister in her calamitous condition. She was a person of singular judgment and understanding, and after having given me an accurate and circumstantial account of what had been done for her without any advantage, and her saying she was well assured sublimate had not been given her, I proposed the use of that to her consideration, in very small doses, to be persevered in for some months. She approved my proposal, and took a lodging near me; and after bleeding and gentle purging, I prescribed it in the following manner, ordering one of the draughts to be taken morning and night.

℞ *Merc. sublimat. corros. gr. ʒs*

Aq. cinnam. simp.

puræ a ʒiij

f. solutio in mortario vitreo & add.

Tinct. thebaic. gutt. xx.

f. Haust. iv.

I added

I added the tinct. thebaic. to make the sublimate sit easier upon the stomach, having often observed without this precaution, its disagreeing both with that and the bowels, especially when taken in larger doses.

In this course she proceeded with great regularity; drinking a decoction prepared with guaiac. sassaf. china & sarsaparilla, with a small portion of milk added to it, for common drink.

She washed her mouth and throat frequently with barley water sweetened with mel rofac. dissolving in a pint of this gargarism two or three grains of the sublimate.

She observed an exact regimen, taking nothing of a heating or poignant nature, and took now and then a cooling purge.

By this method she was soon evidently better, and perfectly cured in about six
4 months,

months, without any return of the disorder; and now enjoys as good health as she had done for many years before.

She had a great many decayed teeth and stumps, all which were extracted to prevent irritation,

What method was taken with her husband at Paris we could not learn; but there he died in about three months.

After she had found some amendment, she wrote to him in the most pressing manner to come to her; but he was then in too weak a state to bear such a journey: and it would have been running the greatest risk of her own life to have attempted going to him in her condition.

I should have mentioned, that for some considerable time, I ordered a dose of extract of the bark to be taken twice a day, *horis medicis*, and a draught of the decoction before mentioned after it, as an
universal

universal corroborant in her weak, relaxed state: and that after using the gargarism as mentioned a little time, I increased the quantity of sublimate, but not to a degree to give uneasiness to the parts, and added to it about one-third of aqua calcis*.

Of cancerous diseases.

The following short description and plain practical account of *cancers*, with the treat-

* Concerning the use of *merc. sub. corrosiv.* in carcinomatous, or phagedænic ulcers, see what *professor Whytt* has communicated in the *London Med. Obs. and Inquiries*, Vol. II. and also what *doctor Akenfide* has written about its efficacy in cancerous cases, in the *Med. Transactions of the College of Physicians*.

In several instances I have seen singularly good effects from this mercurial preparation, by long and regular perseverance in some obstinate cutaneous complaints.

We were greatly disappointed here in England, by *doctor Storck*, in his account of the efficacy of *cicuta*, in the cure of cancers; though it was supported by the authority of the late illustrious *baron van Swieten*, and other eminent men at *Vienna*.

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ment of them both in their occult and open state, from my own remarks, observations, experience, &c. may not prove unacceptable to the inexperienced; for the benefit of their patients in the most formidable and deplorable disease that human nature is subject to, when it will not admit of cure by manual operation.

A *cancer*, according to the acceptation of the word in a medical sense, signifies a hard, unequal, painful tumour, of a dusky, purple, or livid complexion; and why it is so called will presently be shown.

There have been many distinctions of *cancers* made by medical writers, which are comprised in the occult and ulcerated.

Sometimes an eroding ulcer, without such a previous tumour, is called a *cancer*, and by some, with no impropriety, a *canker*, as this word imports a disease proceeding from an humour of a corrosive nature: and sometimes small appearances upon the skin
like

like warts, without pain at first, turn cancerous.

A cancerous tumour commonly has a small beginning, gradually increasing from an obstruction in some glandular body, whether from an internal or external cause, and is often attended with a tickling or itching sensation: and during its indolent state, without having the colour of the skin altered, it has the appellation of a *scirrhus* *.

In

* Under these circumstances, various internal and external medicines are recommended to resolve it, as mercurials, &c. which require great caution in their use.

Vinegar alone, or with crude sal ammoniac dissolved in it, has been thought efficacious by some from their powerful attenuating qualities.

A genuine original *scirrhus*, in which lymph is strongly impacted, seldom admits of resolution by any means; but generally terminates in a *cancer*, unless timely extirpated.

After having dissected out several such *scirrhus* tumours, I have found their interior substance like an hard
unripe

In many instances it is difficult to determine from appearances, when the transition out of the scirrhus into the cancerous state happens; and its progress is quicker or slower from the one to the other, from various incidental and concurring causes.

When the tumour is attended with a peculiar kind of burning, shooting pains, unripe apple, thin slices of which being boiled in water had an horny appearance when cold and dry, and the water they were boiled in became glutinous.

Sometimes glandular obstructions in the breasts produce tumours resembling a true scirrhus, which will, in length of time, inflame, suppurate, and end favourably by opening.

I have been concerned in some such cases; but I must ingenuously confess, that, after the utmost attention, I cannot give the discriminating signs with precision enough to be depended on in the beginning; though probably even then the genuine scirrhus may have a more stoney hardness to the feeling, to direct our judgment in some measure; however it may be most advisable to dissect out these tumours early in a benign state, rather than run the hazard of their degenerating into *cancers* also, from latent causes beyond our penetration.

and

and the skin has acquired the dusky, purple, or livid hue, it may then be deemed a *malignant scirrhus*, or a *confirmed cancer*.

When thus far advanced, in womens breasts, the tumour sometimes increases speedily to a great size, having a knotty, unequal surface, more glands becoming obstructed; the nipple sinks in, varicous or turgid veins are conspicuous, ramefying far about, resembling a *crab's claws*, whence it derives the name of *cancer*: and *Paulus Ægineta* includes the whole appearance of the *crab fish* in his description of this tumour.

These appearances are the characteristics of an occult cancer on the external parts, and we may suspect the existence of one internally, when such heat and pain as have been described, succeed in parts where the patient has before been sensible of a weight and pressure attended with obtuse pain *.

* Vid. Commentaria illustrissimi Baronis van Swieten in Aphorismos celeberrimi Boerhaavii de Scirrhus et Cancro.

There is no part of the body, internal or external, which is exempt from this grievous disease ; but the glandular parts are most liable to it for obvious reasons, as the fluids cannot pass through them so uninterruptedly in the course of circulation, on account of their convoluted vascular structure : for this reason it is most frequently observed upon the breasts of women, which principally consist of glands.

The testes, penis, uterus, and all the genital parts of both sexes, the mesentery, intestine, rectum, bladder, &c. are often affected with it. I have also seen it upon the eyes, nose, lips, tongue, fauces, and the adjacent glandular parts : and two such cases have come under my notice upon the thigh, and two upon the arm, of which only one was perfectly cured by extirpation : in one of the other the wound was healed, but the cicatrix soon opened again ; then excrescences like the heads of cauliflowers sprouted out, and the patient died miserably, without any prospect of saving his life by the loss of his limb,

In

In one of the other cases it was thought advisable, in consultation, to propose amputation of the thigh, but the patient would not consent to it*.

A cancerous tumour never melts down in suppuration as an inflammatory one does, the obstruction lying in the minute lymphatic vessels. When it is ready to break open, especially in the breast, it generally

* Vid. Hildani Opera, Observat. 1. Cent. 1. & Observat. 88. Cent. 3. in respect to extraordinary cases of this nature upon the eye and penis. And see my observations concerning excrescencies with a cancerous aspect, in Vol. II.

I have lately been consulted in two such in the intestin. rect. and the patients died in the utmost distress soon after.

Some years ago, as I have before mentioned, a bladder entirely scirrhus was taken out of a boy about eight years old, and sent me, resembling the gizzard of a fowl, the cavity of which would not hold a spoonful of urine, and in it were found two stones. I presented Mr. Warner, whom I have before mentioned, with this curiosity. Had lithotomy been performed, as was proposed, it must have had a fatal event.

becomes prominent in some point, attended with an increase of the peculiar kind of burning, shooting pain, commonly felt before, at intervals, in a less degree, and deeper in the body of the gland or glands, probably occasioned by some lymphatic fluid there contained becoming acrid and irritating; though this fluid in its natural state is very soft and inoffensive, till altered with long residence in any part by intestine motion.

In the prominent part of the tumour, in this state, a corroding ichor sometimes transudes through the skin, soon forming an ulcer; at other times a considerable quantity of a thin lymphatic fluid tinged with blood, from eroded vessels, is found in the tumour*.

Ulcers

* Tumours of the scirrhus, cancerous, or strumous nature, proceed originally from lymph obstructing the glands, as I have proved to a demonstration by experiments: and also that the contents of the steatoma, meliceris, and atheroma, are lymph in different degrees of inspissation. The meliceris is, most frequently found
upon

Ulcers of this nature discharge a thin, fetid, acrid sanies, which corrodes the parts, having thick, dark coloured, retorted lips :

upon the head, where I have often seen a great many at a time, sometimes clusters of them ; and, from my observation, women seem more subject to this kind of tumour than men. All those which I have been concerned in, have had the wounds heal kindly after extirpation.

These tumours are thought to be of the strumous family, which sometimes also put on cancerous appearances ; and under such circumstances I have successfully eradicated some by incision.

Very lately I was concerned in extirpating a tumour of this nature about the size of a walnut situated below the eye. The operation was attended with a very considerable hæmorrhage, which was effectually restrained by a piece of the finest sponge, exactly adapted to the wound, with moderate pressure. The wound healed kindly, and the patient continues perfectly well.

See what is said upon scirrhus and cancerous, or carcinomatous tumours, in the *Mem. de l'Acad. Roy. de Chirurg.* Tom. 1, 3, 4. and Tom. 1. of the *Prize Mems.* of that illustrious Society, to which surgery is greatly indebted. What Le Dran has written upon this subject also deserves attentive reading and consideration.

and fungous excrescences frequently vegetate from these ulcers, notwithstanding the corrosiveness of the humour. In this state they are often attended with excruciating, pungent, lancinating, burning pains, and sometimes with bleeding. These are the common and principal appearances of this dreadful disease in its ulcerated state *.

Difference of constitution, age, and other circumstances, must direct our judgment in making prognostics, after considering maturely the diagnostics in this disease. If the patient's health in other respects is not much impaired, the cancer in an occult

* We read of the terrible ravages of this disease in Hildanus, Stalpart Vander Wiel, Wiseman, and other eminent writers, and in the *Miscellanea curiosa*.

Ætius says : At vero ulceratus cancer assiduo erodit, & ad profundum perfodit, nec sisti potest, & saniem emittit omni ferarum veneno deteriorem, copia & odore abominabilem.

I have been an unhappy spectator in many such lamentable cases, not knowing how to give permanent relief to the miserable patients,

state,

state, and unattended with pain, and it be not exasperated by the injudicious use of emollient or stimulating applications, or aggravated by intemperance of any kind, it may long remain without much inconvenience, as has been well observed by Hil-danus, Tulpius, and others of great attention and character; and I have also observed the same myself in several instances, when the following rules have been duly attended to; though should the tumour lie dormant for some years, yet, all things considered, the sooner it is extirpated certainly the better, and success may more reasonably be expected to attend the operation, especially in womens breasts, for many very obvious reasons, where it generally increases more or less upon the cessation of the menstrual evacuation, which frees the body from noxious superfluities, &c. hence particular attention should be paid to women at this period of life, when nature suffers a great change, and we see they are then often affected with this disease

both in the breast and uterus, without having had any appearance of it before.

It has been remarked by physicians and surgeons, who have practised in Roman Catholic countries, that the nuns are more liable to this disease than other women, from their state of celibacy, which has also been observed by the great Vesalius; and, were it necessary, some reasons might be offered here for its being so*.

The curative indications are,

1. To extirpate the tumour, and endeavour to prevent the return of the disease, upon the same or some other part of the body.

* Mons. Dionis says, that in a tour he made through the provinces in France, he saw many women in the monasteries afflicted with cancers, and that much the greater part of them were between the age of 45 and 50, at the time of the cessation of the menses; and that those who were younger, and so afflicted, had this evacuation either totally obstructed, or very irregularly.

2. To

2. To palliate the disease, if it is impracticable, or not advisable, to extirpate the tumour, or the operation be not consented to.

When it appears advisable to propose the operation, we should with prudence and precaution give our opinion concerning the expediency of it, without intimidating the patient with the precariousness of the event; though we should be more explicit in this point to the relations or friends, for our own justification should it not end happily.

More preparation may be found necessary on this occasion, both in respect to medicine and regimen, than is generally observed before most other capital operations: and if the patient is a woman, the time of choice for performing it is, when the menstrual evacuation has been completely over some days, unless at a time of life when the returns of it are at uncertain periods.

Though

Though it is needless to say, that the operation is to be performed in the most easy and gentle manner which the nature of the disease, and the rules of surgery, will admit of, yet it is of the utmost consequence, as I am fully convinced, from much and long experience, to be particularly careful in extending the incision every way sufficiently into the sound parts to leave none diseased; for through inattention to this circumstance I am persuaded success has sometimes been wanting in this operation.

The wound is to be treated after the common manner; internals prescribed, and diet regulated, as indications direct; and tranquillity of mind in the course of the cure is essentially necessary to be observed.

Some time before the wound is cicatrized, perhaps the method which proved so efficacious in the preceding cancerous case, might also prove beneficial, by a regular perseverance in it for a considerable
time

time afterwards, and be the means of preventing a return of the disease *.

When the wounds are nearly healed after such operations, fontanels may be advisable; and when on the breasts, the most eligible parts to open them in seem to be above the shoulder-blades, or rather between two ribs, at a proper distance from the limits of the cicatrix. I have proceeded thus upon some similar occasions, and I believe with advantage, particularly in a case related after this dissertation on cancerous diseases †.

When

* The patient, whose case is alluded to, continues perfectly free from that disease; I saw her very lately.

† I have extirpated scirrhus tumours of different sizes out of the breasts of women, of almost all ages, before they arrived apparently at the cancerous state, without disappointment in the cure; and also taken off many cancerous breasts with success, two of which had been some time in an ulcerous state, having still some favourable circumstances to encourage the operations, and they succeeded so happily, according to the above direction, that the patients continue perfectly well after more than 10 years. See reflections and remarks relative

When the operation is not advisable, it is requisite for the patient to observe a strict regimen of diet, which should consist of the soft demulcent kind, with but little animal food; nothing of a heating poignant nature should be taken.

A due observance of this article, and the other non-naturals, may, in some measure, check the progress of the disease, or alleviate the symptoms.

Special regard should be had to avoid passions of the mind, whence I have seen dreadful consequences in this disease,

Gentle purging, and moderate bleeding, when pain and tension urge, should by no means be omitted; and then a more spare and liquid diet should be enjoined.

relative to the extirpation of cancerous breasts, &c.
Vol. II.

A case of the same nature I was concerned in upon a woman's arm, where the operation was performed with this attention, and with the like success.

When the habit is thin, and the patient seemingly hectic, ass's milk is advisable; and under these circumstances a decoction, prepared with rad. sarsaparill. chin. ering. and raisins, with or without a portion of new milk, is a proper common drink.

In lax constitutions, some preparation of the bark may prove beneficial, which is a good antiseptic as well as a corroborant: and at the time of writing this paper, I have a patient with an ulcerated cancer in the breast, who has been taking a cold infusion of the bark in water with orange-peel, and, I think, with some advantage in respect to her general health.

All compression should be avoided; more especially when the tumour is upon the breast, which should also be well suspended, if it becomes burdensome by its weight.

I believe nothing is better to be worn against it, than well drest hare's or rabbit's skin;

skin ; avoiding all unctuous, emollient, or stimulating applications.

This appears to me the best method of treating a cancer in its occult state, when the operation cannot be practised, and when in an ulcerated state the same regimen, &c. is advisable to correct and attemperate the acrimony of the juices, with some preparation of the bark ; using no irritating applications to the ulcer *. Various applications

* Extract. cicutæ has had a fair trial given it in many places without effect in cancerous cases. Some judicious practitioners have thought it beneficial in glandular tumours of a strumous nature, to which I can say nothing to be depended on of my own knowledge. Doctor Butter, in his Treatise upon the Hooping-Cough, where he recommends hemlock as a very efficacious remedy in that disease, has various preparations of it both internal and external ; and his manner of preparing the extract is a very good one.— There is an excellent paper upon this plant, in the London Medical Observations and Inquiries, Vol. III. Art. 23. communicated by doctor Ratty, of Dublin, to doctor Fothergill, and by him to the society. And that

tions are recommended by writers in surgery; those of the saturnine kind I have found, by long experience, most agreeable in general: the following lotion and cerate I have frequently used much to my satisfaction, and ease of the patients.

R Pulv. è ceruss. comp.

Mucilag. gum. arab. a ʒij

Sacchar. saturni ʒj

*Probè contritis in mortario marmoreo addè
sensim*

Aq. calcis

Rosar. damascenar. a ʒvj f. lotio.

*Unguent. saturnin. cum duplici
quantitate ceræ albæ paratum f. cerat.*

After having gently cleansed the ulcer it is to be well washed with the lotion

that volume is concluded with a very excellent one, founded upon experience, in various disorders, by doctor Fothergill, who recommends the use of the extract in scrophulous cases, particularly in adults. He also advises at what time to gather the plant, and how to prepare the extract,

moderately

moderately warm, and strips of plaster made with the cerate laid round the edges ; then soft even dry lint, or lint moistened with the lotion, is to be applied, and a plaster of the cerate over that, having small holes snipt in it, that the matter may not be confined ; and over this dressing, nothing is so proper and easy as cotton-wool wrapt up in fine linen cloth, with a very slight bandage.

Sometimes I have faced the pledgets of lint with unguent. saturnin. having a little pulv. è ceruss. comp. mixt with it. However, great regard must be paid to the effect of every kind of application, to be varied according to circumstances, and the effects it produces : for what shall be found by experience to keep the parts easiest is best.

Some practitioners of great character have highly recommended applications prepared with solanum, cicuta, and other narcotic plants ; I have tried them in various forms,

forms, and made ointments with them in the same manner as unguent. sambucin. P. L. adding wax in such proportion as to give them the consistence of a soft cerate; and found they sometimes proved an easy dressing: I have also seen some good effect from a carrot-poultice, particularly in correcting the fetid putrescence.

The stench proceeding from these ulcers is often very great, consequently noxious to the patient and attendants*.

In this condition they require frequent dressing, even three or four times in 24 hours, and to have the cloths sprinkled with some odorous antiputrescent liquor, as lavender-water alone, or mixt with vinegar: and now it may become very necessary to defend the skin about the ulcer against the acrimony of the matter, by plasters of

* Doctor Harris has recorded a fatal instance, where a physician suffered in this manner from his own wife, who was afflicted with an ulcerous cancer in her breast.

cerat. alb. or something of that gentle nature spread thin upon fine cloth. In extreme pain recourse must occasionally be had to opiates. In hæmorrhages, which often happen from erosion of the vessels, I have used lycoperdon or puff-ball, dry or moistened with aqua styptica, which, with moderate pressure, has effectually answered the end without creating pain, which is no immaterial consideration, in these cases particularly; and in a lady's case, wherein I am concerned at this juncture, it has had this happy effect more than once, in her cancerous breast.

I have sometimes applied to the ulcers thin slices of this soft, easy fungous substance, instead of dry lint, as an absorbent, after washing it with the lotion, when there has been no bleeding, and it has agreed very well*.

* Concerning this very useful fungous substance, see the first volume, under the article of fungous substances.

The best and most expeditious way of cleansing the ulcer at the times of dressing is, with a piece of the finest sponge, of suitable dimensions, expressed out of warm water, having a little brandy mixt with it, which, by gentle pressure upon the ulcer, at once absorbs the matter in the most easy manner, and also corrects putrescence. The same method may likewise be found as proper in other ulcers or wounds, as I have before mentioned.

History of a case, showing the singularly good effect of a seton between the ribs, after the extirpation of a large scirrhus tumour out of a woman's breast.

I was desired, in autumn 1773, to join in consultation with an able surgeon in great practice, concerning a true scirrhus tumour in a woman's breast, about 30 years of age, apparently near its transition into the cancerous state. For many years she had been subject to pulmonic complaints,

threatening a consumption, and indeed was thought to be in that condition.

After mature deliberation, and considering every circumstance, we jointly advised extirpation of the tumour, paying, at the same time, all due regard and attention to the other disorder; having then also in view, should her lungs be relieved, in consequence of the discharge from the wound, to open, when that should be nearly healed, a seton, or large fontanel, between the ribs, just beneath the cicatrix.

Though the discharge from the wound had, as we hoped it might have, a good effect in relieving her lungs, yet she would not then consent to have the seton, or fontanel, as proposed; but the pulmonic symptoms returning soon after the healing of the wound, to as great a degree as before the operation, induced her to comply with what we had strongly recommended; and as soon as the seton, which she preferred to the fontanel, began to discharge freely, she found relief, and in a few months

was

was freed from her cough, &c. and has enjoyed good health since, in all respects, for more than two years; assuring me, that she ascribes her recovery to the discharge between her ribs, which she still preserves, and to which she is well reconciled, being sensible of its great efficacy.

Of an hydrocele, with a diseased testicle accompanying it, and a more uncommon appearance than that.

April the 17th, 1773, Mr. Henschman, a surgeon of a very respectable character, at Earl-Soham, in the county of Suffolk, brought a patient to me at doctor D'Urban's, at Halesworth, about 28 years of age, whose health seemed good in all other respects, except a tumour in his scrotum, which had been deemed an hydrocele tunicae vaginalis.

About a year and a half before, the patient himself discovered a small tumour

on the anterior and interior part of his right testicle, which increased gradually, and was now about five inches in length, and eight in circumference, extending almost to the abdominal ring, having in it a manifest fluctuation of a fluid. It was attended with some degree of shooting pain quite to the loins, the skin had a swarthy colour, the veins upon it were varicous, and the spermatic cord was considerably enlarged.

These symptoms, according to what I have often observed, may justly raise apprehensions, when the testicle cannot be distinctly felt through a considerable quantity of fluid in the tunica vaginalis, that it is not a simple hydrocele; and this is a point which demands the utmost attention to direct our practice for the safety of the patient, lest the case should prove complicated with a diseased testicle.

On the 7th of May following, I was desired to attend a consultation, consisting
of

of four surgeons, at the patient's own house.

After deliberately considering every circumstance, we thought it by no means advisable to pursue the palliative method practised in a true hydrocele, nor attempt the radical cure either by caustic or seton, as recommended by two eminent writers*.

We were willing to proceed with all due precaution for our own sakes as well as our patient's safety; consequently we acquainted his relations and friends with the result of our deliberations, and the precariousness of the success of the method proposed, which

* Mr. Pott and Mr. Elfe. Soon after this volume was first printed, Mr. Warner, whom I have before mentioned, published his treatise on this subject, the result of long experience, great judgment, and accurate anatomical knowledge, wherein he mentions the successful use of sponge-tents, after puncture with a lancet, to answer the purposes recommended by those gentlemen, in their methods of performing the radical cure of this disease.

we had unanimously agreed upon, and it was readily assented to by all concerned.

The patient having been properly prepared, an incision of a sufficient extent was now made at the inferior and anterior part of the tumour, in order to investigate the state of the testicle; intending, if found diseased, as we feared, to proceed to castration directly, having an apparatus ready; and if not so affected, then to endeavour to perform the radical cure, by extending the incision farther, &c. as should be found necessary *.

Upon

* See Vol. II. upon this subject, particularly the note on the case of hydrocele of the tunica vaginalis, taken for a scirrhus testicle, and the cases relative to castration, p. 224 and 235—246.

Two years ago I was consulted in a simple hydrocele, for a person about 70 years of age, and the palliative operation was performed, discharging near a quart of water, without any bad accident in consequence of it. Next year the operation was again performed, desiring our patient to forbear much exercise for a few days; but the day after he rode a long journey,

Upon making the incision, eight or ten ounces of a fluid, like pale urine, passed out, and then an hydatide, about the size of an hen's egg, presented itself, having a transparent, thick, gelatinous fluid, contained in a fine pellucid membrane, adhering to the tunica albuginea of an enlarged diseased testicle. These circumstances determined us to proceed forthwith to castration, which was performed without any remarkable occurrence, taking up the spermatic artery with a little cellular membrane by the needle and ligature, avoiding the nerve. The sheath of the cord, and the tunica vaginalis, were much thickened, and resembled doe's leather.

After the operation we accurately examined the diseased parts, and found the membrane which enveloped the hydatide firmly attached to the tunica albuginea, and

journey, which occasioned a violent inflammation; it was treated properly by his surgeon in ordinary, and proved a radical cure, though no abscess succeeded the inflammation.

to the epididymis, of a livid complexion ; and that the testis had a cancerous tendency, the tubuli of which were of a dark colour. These appearances gave us the satisfaction of being convinced we had proceeded rationally, as well as with a degree of precaution extremely necessary in a case no less dubious in its event than important in its nature.

The symptoms, in consequence of the operation, were favourable, and on July the 28th, when I again met Mr. Henchman upon business, he informed me the wound had been perfectly cicatrized some weeks, and that the patient enjoyed a good state of health *.

* Vid. Morgagni de Causis & Sedibus Morborum, Epist. 43. Art. 16 & seq. and Mr. Else's judicious Treatise on the Hydrocele Tunica vaginalis Testis, concerning hydatides upon the tunica albuginea, &c. Morgagnus says, in his *Adversaria anatomica*, that the tunica albuginea consists of two lamellæ : and De Graaf de Virorum Organis Generationis, says, Vasa lymphatica quæ admodum dextere in testiculis detexit nostri seculi curiositas, non solum provenire nobis videntur

videntur a tunica albuginea, sed etiam ab interna testicularum substantia: and Nuck, in his *Adenographia Curiosa*, speaks to the same purpose.

Read what the late celebrated professor Monro has written upon tumours in the scrotum, in the *Medical Essays*, Vol. V. and Mons. Bertrandi's *Dissertation on the Hydrocele*, in the *Mem. de l'Acad. Roy. de Chirurgie*, Tom. III.—Mr. Ingram, in his *Chirurgical Observations*, describes six distinct kinds of hydroceles, which are well worth attending to, where he also takes notice of hydatides; but does not mention a case wherein any appeared in an hydrocele in these parts, nor how they are produced.

As lymphatics, according to the doctrine of accurate modern anatomists, take their rise from, and are dispersed in the cellular membrane, so probably hydatides proceed from ruptures of them, having their fluid deposited in the cells of that membrane, which is the universal connecting substance; and there, gradually increasing and distending them, form cysts of different sizes. Some have thought hydatides were lymphatics distended with their fluid by obstructions.

See Hewson's excellent *Treatise on the Lymphatic System*, published since I wrote this volume.

Of the good effect of opposite caustics, as described by Dr. Barry in the Edinburgh Medical Essays, Vol. iv. Edit. 4.

Some years ago a physician at I——h, in the county of Suffolk, advised a young gentleman, under venereal and strumous complaints, to consult me, in conjunction with his surgeons, concerning a tumour upon one of his testicles, after having taken the opinion of one of the most eminent surgeons in London, who declared he thought it necessary to submit to castration as the only remedy. This dreadful sentence gave him great dissatisfaction, and he absolutely determined then not to submit to such a loss.

From an opening of a small abscess, upon the superior and lateral part of the testicle, which discharged an ill-conditioned matter, proceeded an excrescence the size of a small walnut,

walnut, having a very unfavourable and threatening aspect.

After having deliberately considered every circumstance, as well the antecedent as the present, I ventured to propose to the consideration of my brethren, an attempt to destroy the excrescence, by a cautious procedure in the method above-mentioned, as the patient would by no means consent to the use of the knife. My brethren acquiescing, and our patient readily complying, it was so effectually eradicated, as to lay the foundation of cure by the common treatment externally, and internally as the nature of the case required, without any future vegetation*.

He regularly persevered for some months in the use of the bark, with very small doses, morning and night, of merc. sublimat. corrosiv. as an alterative, using a laxative occasionally, and drinking, for common

* See Vol. I. and II. concerning the use of caustics.

drink,

drink, decoctum lignorum, with a small portion of new milk added to it, strictly observing the non-naturals at the same time.

Some years after I attended this gentleman upon another occasion, and found he had not the least complaint upon the testicle.

Of an hydrocele of the tunica vaginalis of the spermatic cord.

On the 16th of December 1773, I was desired, by a physician and a surgeon in the county of Suffolk, to examine with them a tumour upon the spermatic cord of a person about 27 years of age, who appeared to be healthy in all other respects. The figure and size of the tumour much resembled the testicle of the same side, which was in its natural dimensions. Just above the tumour, and quite up to the abdominal ring, the
cord

cord was not enlarged, nor beneath it for the space of near an inch, between that and the testicle. This appearance at first sight, impressed upon our imaginations the idea of a *lusus naturæ*, two testicles on this side. The colour of the skin was not altered; the patient complained of no pain in the tumour, and only to a slight degree in the lumbar region. It had not been observed by himself but a few weeks, and according to his own observation, was not much increased in that time; nor was he sensible of any strain, or other external injury, to give rise to it.

Upon strict examination of this circumscribed tumour, which was renitent, we were fully satisfied of the fluctuation of a fluid in it, none of which, by strong pressure, could be forced into either space above or below it; which spaces in the cord have been mentioned. From these appearances and considerations we were unanimously of opinion, that it was a true and distinct hydrocele of the tunica vaginalis of the spermatic

matic cord; though we had never before observed the like*.

As it was a recent case, and in such a subject, we agreed to try the effect of an application of crude sal ammon. dissolved in vinegar, with brisk mercurial purges, prepared with jalap, calom. &c. to be given at due intervals. Compresses were wetted in the solution, and applied warm, renewing them as they grew dry; properly suspending the parts.

By this method the tumour was soon visibly diminished, giving us reason to believe, that the fluid and absorbing vessels were brought into a state to admit of cure thereby, which was perfected in about six weeks, as the surgeon informed me.

* Vid. Comment. Van Swieten in Aphorismos Boerhaavii, Tom. iv. p. 183.

Of a Lunatic's swallowing an iron pin more than five inches long, tapering and about two inches in circumference at the biggest end, and its consequences.

When the keeper of this gentleman went at night to secure the door of his room, as he used to do, and was looking for the pin, he said to him, "don't look for it, I have swallowed it:" this he little credited; but it being in a lucid interval he asked him what induced him to do so, and his answer was; "I was thirsty and my mouth hot, "and putting the pin into it, it felt cool "and very pleasant, and I thrust it down "my throat with my finger thus," describing the manner, saying, "it is gone indeed."

He made no complaint till about a fortnight after; then became very restless, and said his body ached violently; but had no recollection of swallowing the pin:

however, upon taking a purge it was brought away and all his complaints immediately ceased.

The keeper of this lunatic is a person of veracity; and some years after he had given me this strange relation, I was called to his house upon business in my profession, and finding the gentleman pretty rational, as he was at times, I asked him about this matter, and he confirmed to me the truth of the whole transaction.

A case mistaken, attended with a singular circumstance.

In May, 1768, an excellent apothecary, who also practised surgery, asked my opinion concerning a boy about seven years of age, who he told me had long had a *fistulous ulcer in perinæo*, with a *glandular tumour* in the left *inguen*, and that, from the appearances, he apprehended it was a *scrophulous case*:
however,

however, upon more strict inquiry we were informed, that several months before he became this gentleman's patient, he fell with great violence upon the *ischium*, in consequence of which he had extreme pain there, extending to the *perinaeum*, where an abscess afterwards was formed and suffered to burst of itself, without application being made to a surgeon, his parents being very poor.

Upon passing a probe towards the *ischium*, farther than had before been introduced, I plainly felt a piece of bone in the sinus, which was very strait: and upon examining the tumour attentively, it appeared beyond dispute, to be a *testis* that had never descended into the *scrotum*.

My friend was fully convinced, and ingenuously confessed his mistake.

I advised enlarging the opening to give room for the easy passage of the piece of bone, now much confined, and to take

the plaster off the *testicle*, giving it full liberty.

The ulcer healed soon after the discharge of a large exfoliation ; but probably the *testicle* had acquired such a strong adhesion to the surrounding parts, as never to be dislodged from that residence, and fall into its proper place*.

* Doctor Michaelson, an ingenious young physician with whom I was acquainted in London, told me that he had been concerned for a patient in the venereal disease, whose testicles had not descended into the scrotum at more than 20 years of age, but lay just above the inguina easily to be felt.

Until the time of birth, the *testes* of the *fœtus* are situated within the cavity of the *abdomen*.

See a description of their situation, &c. concerning the *hernia congenita*, in the accurate doctor Hunter's Medical Commentaries, by Mr. John Hunter, his brother, an excellent anatomist also, and surgeon to St. George's hospital in London.

Of

Of a case wherein the liver was of an enormous size.

The subject of this history was a gentleman of the law, aged about 60, of an uncommonly small stature and lean habit of body. He had for some years been in a valetudinary state, probably owing to a sedentary life and too close application to study and business, which deprived him of the benefit of two essentials to health, air, and exercise.

At length the abdominal viscera became obstructed and affected to a great degree, and he had a cadaverous aspect.

Under these circumstances he was advised to go to Bath, in the vernal season of the year 1765; there he consulted two physicians, and Mr. Pierce the surgeon; and though his body was then considerably

enlarged, they apprehended it contained but little fluid, and did not deem it an *ascites* requiring *paracentesis*.

Upon his return home I was desired to attend him with doctor Offley; the case appeared to us as it had done to the gentlemen at Bath, and we were sensible that the liver was of a vast bigness, extending almost all over the abdomen.

Soon after ill health obliged me to retire from business, and prevented my farther attendance.

The year following it was thought advisable to tap him and repeat the operation four times, which gave very little relief; the quantity of fluid drawn off each time was but small and gelatinous.

He died in November, 1767, and according to his own desire his body was opened.

Upon

Upon opening the abdomen, but a small quantity of a fluid, and that gelatinous, was found diffused in the cavity; in a cyst formed of the peritonæal coat of the liver on its concave side, five or six pints of the like kind of fluid were contained; the liver was scirrhus to a great degree, and much resembled a cow's udder; it weighed 28 pounds, which was more than one fourth of the weight of the patient's whole body when in health; it was overspread with hydatides, each containing from a quarter to half a pint or more of inspissated lymph; some of which were burst and had shed their contents into the cavity of the abdomen.

The spleen was enlarged to double its natural size, and was also full of hydatides like those on the liver,

The mesenteric glands were distended with gelatinous lymph.

The abdominal viscera adhered together and to the containing parts.

The contents of the thorax were not diseased, but the capacity of it was greatly diminished, by the extraordinary bulk and pressure upwards of the liver, &c. by which respiration became very difficult.

I am obliged to the physician who attended the dissection for these descriptions,

*A singular case of a stone lodged in the rectum
just above the sphincter ani.*

A gentleman between 60 and 70 years of age, naturally of a very robust constitution, but now greatly emaciated, had been for nine or ten years subject to disorders of the urinary passages often voiding gravel and small stones; and about three years ago had a large abscess formed *in perinaeo*; which was opened by an old, experienced surgeon;
but

but he did not discover any perforation of the *urethra*.

The ulcer remained in a fistulous state, and in a short time he complained of uneasiness in the *rectum* above the *sphincter ani*. This new complaint soon became very tormenting, and was long looked upon and treated as the *internal piles*, when by introducing his own finger, he felt some solid body, which was apprehended, by those whom he consulted on this occasion, to be a plumb-stone or a biliary concretion lodged there, without examining the part as he himself had done.

He was now in a deplorable condition, not being able to sit upon a seat, in constant pain, excruciating upon going to stool, and had urine pass through the fistulous ulcer in *perinæo*, and sometimes into the *rectum*.

Under

Under these circumstances his physician * proposed my being consulted with the two surgeons who had been concerned for him some time.

After strictly examining the parts, and deliberately considering every circumstance in our consultation, we were unanimously of opinion, that a stone had slipped out of its course when the abscess was formed *in perinæo*, and at length made its way partly into the *rectum*, as we were in no doubt that what we felt there with our fingers was the point of a stone, though we could not feel any by introducing a probe into the fistulous ulcer.

From these considerations we proposed cutting upon it, in order to extract it, after emptying the rectum with a clyster.

The patient was so well satisfied with the propriety of this method, as to consent to

* Doctor Bigsby of Ipswich.

it directly; and the operation was judiciously performed by his surgeon in ordinary, by cutting upon it through the *sphincter*, making the wound sufficiently large to extract it with facility.

The stone was of a tapering figure more than an inch long, of the bigness of the little finger, and about one third of its length projected into the rectum, where a kind of neck was formed, by the stricture of the surrounding parts, which confined it strongly in its situation, where undoubtedly it gradually encreased.

The wound healed kindly without any ill accident in consequence of the operation; and by properly treating the fistulous ulcer with bougies, &c. that was also soon brought into a healing state, and both were perfectly cured in less than two months, as the surgeon informed me.

I saw this gentleman the year after; he had then recovered his flesh, and told me

he enjoyed good health, finding no uneasiness upon the parts in walking, riding, or in going to stool *.

* An amiable old surgeon, to whom I was under great obligations, unwittingly swallowed the shiver of a bone which passed through all the intricate turnings and windings of the alimentary canal, without any interruption till it came into the rectum, where it stuck in the coats of it upon contraction in expelling the fæces; great pain ensued, supposed to proceed from the internal piles, continuing a long while to such a degree that he could not sit upon a seat; and at length the inflammation terminated in an abscess; upon opening of which the bone was extracted, and he was soon perfectly cured by the common treatment. This account I had from the gentleman himself,

Copy

Copy of a letter to doctor Monsey, physician to Chelsea-hospital, which I took from the original in the patient's own hand-writing, with the doctor's consent : and it is inserted here, some circumstances being omitted in the account of the case in the Medical Transactions of the College of Physicians.

London,

October the 1st, 1766.

“ GOOD SIR,

“ With all humble submission I take
 “ the liberty, in this manner, to acquaint
 “ you with my disorder of the most singular nature, with which I was seized
 “ as near as I can recollect, in the year
 “ 1752, and shall endeavour to give you
 “ as clear and exact a representation of it
 “ as I can.

“ When ever I went out into the open
 “ air, or exposed myself to the sun, my
 “ skin

“ skin began to be tickled, and as I went
“ on, or remained therein, that tickling
“ sensation would soon become a violent
“ itching attended with uncommon heat,
“ and my skin also wherever touched by
“ the warm air or the sun-beams would
“ immediately appear as red as vermilion,
“ but soonest by the effect of the latter, and
“ become thick and stiff as leather, some-
“ times horney; but I was thus affected
“ only between sun and sun; for before the
“ sun rose, and after it set, I was quite an-
“ other man.

“ Thus it was with me, and from sun-
“ rising to sun-setting I was in a state of
“ involuntary confinement within doors.

“ Many worthy gentlemen of the faculty
“ have given me their advice and endea-
“ vours to relieve me in this distress, which
“ rendered me incapable of following my
“ occupation, as a watchmaker, to earn my
“ bread: besides which, I had the assist-
“ ance of the most noted hospitals, but
“ without

“ without any sensible benefit, though what
 “ was prescribed for me might possibly
 “ check the rapidity of the progress of my
 “ tormenting disease, which might soon
 “ have put a period to my life.

“ At last the gentlemen were unani-
 “ mously of opinion that sea-bathing for
 “ three months might afford me some re-
 “ lief, if not perfectly cure me; and being
 “ tired of my life, and almost distracted
 “ with my condition, I scraped together
 “ what small matter my scanty circum-
 “ stances would allow, and went to Yar-
 “ mouth, where after going into the open
 “ sea for six weeks night and morning, I
 “ thought it high time to try an experi-
 “ ment, in order to prove whether I had
 “ received any benefit; to which purpose
 “ I pitched upon a day, which experience
 “ had convinced me was proper for the
 “ trial: I undrest in the middle of the day
 “ and went into the water, and after a triple
 “ immersion I thought it prudent to come
 “ out, finding a return of those dreadful
 “ symp-

“ symptoms I have described, with great
“ aggravation; what I felt before I could
“ get on my cloaths is inexpressible; but
“ I will as well as I can endeavour to convey to you an idea of my misery at this
“ time: the itching, together with the
“ heat diffused themselves with such spirit
“ and activity through my whole frame,
“ that nature seemed ready to yield, my
“ eyes grew dim and could not perform
“ their office, and I became so excessively
“ weak and faint that I was compelled to
“ lie down upon the beach to prevent falling; but the moment I thus prostrated
“ myself the faintness abated; I then got
“ up, but it instantly returned, and I was
“ forced to lie down again; thus was I
“ alternately getting up and lying down
“ for half an hour before I found myself
“ able to walk.

“ This account may seem amazing to
“ some, and be disputed by others; but
“ indeed it is true without any exaggeration.

“ Find-

“ Finding myself likely to be disap-
 “ pointed in this ultimate hope and refuge,
 “ from the most serious reflection, I should
 “ with great willingness, have resigned my
 “ existence, rather than have lived so sin-
 “ gular a monument of misery, without any
 “ prospect of cure or alleviation of the
 “ wretchedness of my condition : however,
 “ as the time limited for my bathing in the
 “ sea was but half expired, I resolved to
 “ stay to the full extent of it, and conti-
 “ nued it morning and night for seven
 “ weeks longer, which made in the whole
 “ thirteen : and I also drank a pint of the
 “ sea-water every morning fasting.

“ Having now strictly conformed to this
 “ last resort, overwhelmed with horror and
 “ distress, I sat myself down upon the
 “ pier-head, ruminating upon my hard fate
 “ and irremediable condition, and resolved
 “ to return home as soon as I could.

“ After my return various means were
 “ tried to no better purpose, till I applied
 VOL. III. Q “ to

“ to you, by whose kind and charitable
“ assistance, when reduced to the last degree
“ of despondency I have received comfort,
“ and am enabled to breathe and bear that
“ air which is appointed for the general
“ benefit of mankind; and also to pursue my
“ business for my support *.

“ The account I have related is authen-
“ tic, as God is my judge; and many
“ living witnesses can attest the truth of it,
“ which I thought would be agreeable to
“ you to have under my own hand, as the
“ circumstances are of such an extraordi-
“ nary nature. I forgot to mention my
“ age,

* The doctor told me that warm bathing, small doses of calomel, as an alterative, long persevered in, taking now and then a lenient purge, with a strict observance of the non-naturals and a proper regimen of diet, was the method which proved of such singular service.

The doctor informed me in August, 1768, that this man continued well without having had any return of his disease.

The

“ age, which is 38. I am with profound
“ respect and gratitude,”

Worthy Sir,

Your most obliged and
dutiful servant

WEST ADAMS,

Watch-maker, in Turk's-head-court,
Golden-lane, near Barbican,

LONDON.

The winter before this disease appeared, his diet consisted chiefly of bullock's liver and porter, and his companion lived in the same manner, who was also afflicted in a less degree; which circumstances are omitted in the preceding letter, but the patient acquainted the doctor with them afterwards, as he informed me.

The following letter was sent to Sir Christopher Meighan at Dieppe in Normandy, by a gentleman of the army, for his opinion in respect to the use of the Waters at Bareges in his case, with the state of it inclosed.

Norwich,

March the 10th, 1767.

“ SIR,

“ After having read your Treatise on
“ the Bareges waters, I desired the sur-
“ geon under whose care I had been, as
“ long as his health would allow him to
“ attend me, to draw up my case to be
“ transmitted to you, to know whether
“ you think them proper in it ; and I beg
“ the favour of your immediate answer,
“ with such directions as you shall judge
“ neces-

“ necessary to give for the use of them, if
“ you think them advisable in my case.

“ Should you encourage my taking so
“ long a journey, I will repair thither
“ directly.”

I am,

Sir,

Your most humble servant,

“ The inclosed state of my case has been
“ read and approved by my physician.”

State of the case.

The gentleman is about 30 years of age,
of small stature, but had remarkable strength
for his size. He was of a lively, active
disposition, and always enjoyed good health
till the year 1762, when he suffered very

Q3

much

much by hard duty, and lying in the damp trenches at Belleisle.

In consequence of these hardships, he first was seized with a pain upon his hip, which was considered and treated as a rheumatic disorder, by the regimental surgeon, then at home by a surgeon of character in the country, and afterwards by a physician of great eminence in London.

Two years elapsed under the care of these gentlemen, without finding any relief; and sometime after, when both hip and thigh were greatly enlarged, they were electrified nine times, receiving the severest shocks each time, upon pretence of more effectually dispersing the swelling, under the direction of a person entirely ignorant of medical knowledge.

From the time of the electrification, every thing proceeded from bad to worse, and in a little time he returned to his native place, much emaciated and hectic,
put-

putting himself again under the care of his former surgeon, who finding a great collection of matter throughout the thigh, made an ample opening through the fascia femoris.

An immense quantity of fetid matter was discharged, like the washings of flesh; the subjacent muscles were very flabby and livid, looking like a new flayed hare after lying in water.

In August, 1764, soon after this step had been taken, doctor Offley and I were called to him.

Considering his extreme weakness, requiring the assistance of two or three persons to turn him in his bed, and every motion being attended with exquisite pain, his being shrunk almost to skin and bone, with loss of appetite, and having a vexatious cough with colliquative sweats, it was no wonder that his surgeon should declare to us as he did, even before we saw him, that

we were come to see a dying man, whom he believed would live but a very few days: and indeed after seeing him, and examining the state of the case with the utmost care and attention, and receiving an history of it from the beginning in a very circumstantial and exact manner, we also despaired of his recovery.

We discovered sinuses in every direction in the interstices of the muscles, from the loins and hip to the ham, by introducing a bougie, whence proceeded such an immoderate quantity of the most offensive sanious matter, that it was not possible he could long have existed under that discharge, with the absorption of the matter keeping up a constant fever, &c. and we were now apprehensive the bones were affected in different parts.

From this inundation of matter we considered the parts as a morass that required draining, in order to make firm land; consequently agreed to obtain three or four depend-

depending openings, and dress the whole in the most easy, superficial manner: one was made at the inferior part of the lumbar region, directly upon a point where he had long complained of such exquisite pain, that he could not bear to lie upon it. Here we found a caries upon the spinal process of the last *vertebra* with great roughness of the bone; and immediately after this opening he was able to lie upon that part with ease.

The depending and counter openings, with the easy, superficial dressings, soon produced a very wonderful change in the case; the discharge lessened, and the matter became better conditioned: and with the assistance of the physician's advice and prescriptions, there was a daily amendment in all respects very visibly.

After our attendance at a distance about six weeks, the gentleman was earnestly desirous, with the concurrence of his relations, to be under our immediate care and inspection,

tion, and was accordingly removed to Norwich, a distance of about 30 miles, and bore the journey without being much fatigued, lying upon a bed in a large coach.

We now pursued our original plan of occasionally making depending openings of a moderate extent, and preserving them in the easiest manner, to give a free and uninterrupted discharge to the matter, and room for the expulsion of carious pieces of bones; from the *os sacrum*, *isch.* and *fem.* as well as the *verteb.* which has been mentioned, all which we found affected; and to give nature an opportunity of filling up with good flesh and closing such dreadful cavernous ulcers.

We had from all these bones exfoliations, some thicker and some thinner, and some from the *os femoris* the thickness of the bone quite to the marrow: the whole number were 26, but only one has come away visibly for about a year; since which many of the sinuses have perfectly closed,
others

others have contracted into a narrow compass, and none of those still remaining open afford much matter.

He drank asses milk, took the bark, elix. vitriol. &c. and observed such a regimen, with great regularity in all respects, as the doctor thought advisable.

He has recovered flesh and strength far beyond our expectation, and so much of his wonted gaiety and cheerfulness as to relish amusements and diversions.

This worthy gentleman in the whole course of his most dreadful affliction, showed the greatest magnanimity and fortitude of mind.

Halesworth,

Feb. the 18th, 1767.

B. GOOCH.

This

This case was attested by Dr. Offley of
Norwich *.

Sir Christopher Meighan's answer.

Dieppe in Normandy,
March the 21st, 1767.

“ S I R,

“ The origin of your disorder was mani-
“ festly obstructed perspiration, in conse-
“ quence of which matter was in time
“ congested, forming a tumour upon the
“ limb.

* In consequence of an unfortunate, and unforeseen incident which brought my life into the most imminent danger, I was obliged to retire from business between two and three years; which circumstance prevented my seeing this gentleman for more than a year before I drew up this history of his case, and what occurred in that intermediate period was left to be added, by the surgeon who succeeded me, with the physician's concurrence.

“ The

“ The electrification so unseasonably
“ and violently practised proved, without
“ doubt, very injurious ; the repeated per-
“ cussions in that manner, particularly
“ affecting the distended vessels, must pro-
“ duce lacerations in many of the capilla-
“ ries, and occasion a diffusion of matter
“ on all sides, whence proceeded more
“ sinuses than there would otherwise have
“ been, and probably more injury to the
“ bones.

“ It is needless to say any more on the
“ circumstances of your case, than to felicitate you on the excellency of your constitution, that was able to withstand such dreadful attacks, and to congratulate the gentlemen by whose salutary care you have been preserved, particularly by the judicious measures they pursued in making opportune depending openings, by which the preying matter was drained off, giving the carious bones room to exfoliate, and preventing, by those means, the fatal consequences of hectic fever,

“ fever, profuse night sweats and con-
“ sumptive cough, which would finally
“ have ended in a fatal marasmus, by puru-
“ lent matter being constantly absorbed,
“ and mixing with the mass of blood and
“ humours.

“ The present state in which you are,
“ alone claims our consideration and atten-
“ tion, and in my opinion, from what I
“ have observed of the efficacy of the
“ Bareges waters, they are exceedingly
“ proper in your case now ; for any sinuses
“ still remaining open may become fistu-
“ lous, and callosities will prevent a cure
“ being perfected, as daily experience
“ evinces, which may be brought into a
“ sure healing disposition, by the resolute
“ and digestive power of these waters.

“ Carious splinters of bones, if they lie
“ latent, as they sometimes will for many
“ years, and breaking forth revive great
“ evils, will be detached by the operation
“ of

“ of the *douche* *; and, what is the main
 “ point, by drinking these balsamic salu-
 “ brious waters health may be restored.

“ In order to obtain these desirable ends
 “ I advise as follows.

“ As soon as you get to Bareges, which
 “ should be by the beginning of June at
 “ latest, I would have you begin with the
 “ temperate, lukewarm baths called *Bains*
 “ *de Delices*, continuing them nine days
 “ successively, each bathing to be of an
 “ hour and half's duration at least, taking
 “ the dressings previously off the ulcers,
 “ afterwards applying to them soft
 “ even pledgets of lint, and compresses
 “ dipped in the water of the hottest
 “ spring, to be gently bound on with
 “ a roller; which easy simple method of
 “ dressing is sufficient at all times, unless
 “ the orifices of the ulcers be callous,
 “ or there be callosities in the sinuses, in

* *Douche* is the same operation as our pumping at Bath.

“ which

“ which case there may be occasion to
“ scarify the lips and dress them with an
“ ointment prepared with two parts of the
“ purest sediment of the baths and one of
“ crude mercury, with a small portion of
“ the finest turpentine, to be well rubbed
“ together till the mercury be perfectly
“ extinguished and no globules to be seen :
“ and some of this ointment is to be con-
“ veyed into the sinuses, as far as it can
“ conveniently, upon soft pledgets of lint,
“ not cramming them full ; continuing
“ this manner of dressing, so long as the
“ parts remain in a callous state, according
“ to the surgeon’s judgment.

“ During these nine days, two hours
“ before entering the bath, it will be
“ proper to have a clyster given of the
“ temperate water : and during the whole
“ course of these waters, clysters of the
“ temperate, or hottest water, if you are
“ not too hot, may prove beneficial twice
“ or thrice a week.

“ You

“ You may send every morning early
 “ for a quart of the hottest spring water,
 “ and drink it mixt with the same quan-
 “ tity of fresh drawn cow’s milk, divided
 “ into six portions, with the interval of
 “ an hour; persisting in the use of this
 “ salutary medicine during the whole sea-
 “ son, except on the purging days, which
 “ should be every tenth for the first month,
 “ and fifteenth afterwards, doing nothing
 “ in these days but wash the sores with
 “ the hottest water, injecting some into
 “ the sinuses, with the rest of the dressing
 “ as has been directed; using the oint-
 “ ment if found necessary.

“ The gentlest purgatives are to be
 “ used. Manna with nitre dissolved in
 “ clear whey, and strained, makes a very
 “ proper purge at these times. Two
 “ ounces of manna, with a dram of nitre,
 “ is a full dose. If nitre should disagree
 “ with your stomach, cream of tartar may
 “ be used in its stead.

“ After the first nine days use of the
“ temperate bath-water, and the purge
“ which is to succeed it; you are then to
“ begin with the *douche* from this spring,
“ and after fifteen days the water from the
“ hottest spring may be used to all the
“ parts affected, or that have been affected,
“ from eight to fifteen minutes at a time,
“ as you find you can well bear this opera-
“ tion, which is to be repeated every day
“ throughout the season, as a most sove-
“ reign remedy to heal the ulcers, or dis-
“ pose them to heal; but should you at
“ any time find yourself over-heated by
“ the *douche* *, it must be omitted two or
“ three

* I was obliged to go to Bath twice on account of a lameness upon my ankle, and I found by experience, that this operation quickened my pulse, and made me hotter than bathing in water of an equal degree of heat the same space of time.

These waters proved so efficacious, after various other means had afforded me no relief, as to restore the use of my limb, when it was become quite useless, and attended with great pain upon the least motion, in

“ three days, and in that interval use the
 “ temperate bath for refreshment, as before
 “ directed.

“ It is to be observed, that when the
 “ ulcers are deterged, and appear in a good
 “ healing condition, which in a bad case
 “ probably may be two months or more,
 “ even with the most regular perseverance
 “ in the method I have recommended, the
 “ percussion of the *douche*, or fall of water
 “ upon the parts, is to be moderated, or
 “ regulated, by interposing a piece of fine
 “ linen cloth, or by the use of a tin pipe
 “ of a smaller diameter, giving a much
 “ less column of water, endeavouring to
 “ avoid throwing it in a perpendicular di-
 “ rection upon the parts into the sinuses,
 “ lest the force and power of it in that
 “ manner, should interrupt the work of
 “ regeneration, or wear away the very

consequence of gouty matter falling upon the joint,
 after a violent injury received by a fall from my horse
 many months before.

R. 2

“ tender

“ tender papillæ or granulations of flesh :
“ and here it may be necessary to inform
“ you, to prevent your being discouraged
“ at the conclusion of the season, that,
“ though every disposition for a cure should
“ be laid, yet the ulcers seldom cicatrize
“ till some time after quitting the action of
“ the waters, for very obvious reasons.

“ Should it happen that extraordinary
“ heat, head-ach, or febrile symptoms,
“ discoverable by the quickness of the
“ pulse, should seize you at any time during
“ the use of these waters, you should lose
“ six or eight ounces of blood, or more,
“ as you can bear that evacuation, and
“ take a dose of gentle purging physic,
“ repeating it occasionally.

“ Your regimen or diet, a point so ma-
“ terial in the cure of all diseases, is to be
“ attended to with the utmost strictness
“ and observance, as very conducive to the
“ success of the waters. Milk, as it comes
“ from the cow, with bread in a moderate
“ quantity,

“ quantity, is proper for breakfast and
 “ supper; for dinner, good plain soup or
 “ broth, with flesh-meats of easy diges-
 “ tion, as veal, mutton, lamb, chicken,
 “ &c. boiled or roasted; avoiding high
 “ sauces, fruits, and sallads, or whatever is
 “ heating, or breeds crudities.

“ If you can content yourself with water
 “ for common drink, which should be
 “ boiled, and the clear poured off when
 “ cold, that is, in my opinion, a liquor the
 “ most advisable, drinking only one glass
 “ of some genuine sweet stomach wine,
 “ such as Malaga, or Frontiniac, after
 “ dinner; but if custom has made wine
 “ necessary, and you cannot be satisfied
 “ with water alone, a third part of good
 “ sound red Port wine mixed with it may
 “ be allowed. Too free an use of wine
 “ has proved so prejudicial to some of our
 “ countrymen, who have resorted to Ba-
 “ reges, as to deprive them of the benefit
 “ of the waters in very proper cases.

“ I most heartily wish the recovery of
“ your health, and am,

“ SIR,

“ Your most humble servant,

“ CHRISTOPHER MEIGHAN *,”

* Sir Christopher Meighan, M. D. is Knight of the Order of the Holy Ghost, and used to attend at Bareges in the seasons for drinking the waters, &c.

These thermal springs are at the foot of the Pyrenean mountains, towards the south, dividing France from Spain, where commodious covered baths were built by the order of the present king of France, for the better accommodation of people resorting to them. I have reason to wish there had been the like accommodation at Bath; for when I was obliged to go thither in the autumnal season, by being exposed to the open air in bathing in cold weather, I suffered much.—Of this defect the gentlemen of the faculty there were very sensible, and as desirous to have the inconvenience remedied.

Sir

Sir Christopher Meighan's letter determined this gentleman to go to Bareges, and in his way thither through London he took the opinion of some eminent surgeons there, who also advised the same.

In his journey he suffered much from some unexpected occurrences, and when he arrived there, was not in a condition to use the waters to any purpose; for which he was advised to retire to Tarbes in Gascony, about fifteen leagues from Bareges, and there to winter, in order to return early the next season; but in the mean time a new disorder attacked him, and carried him off; concerning which I never had a satisfactory account, but did hear it was some complaint in his bowels.

He was embalmed by Mons. Clerac, who gave a very defective account of his dying illness.

*Of the singular effect of a large dose of
solid opium.*

A person who had long been subject to nephritic complaints, and voided many small stones, was unnecessarily compelled to a long attendance in a court of judicature, upon an excessive hot day ; in consequence of which an immoderate effusion of blood ensued from the urinary passages, and continued, with short intervals, for more than ten months ; defeating the most powerful means, and bringing his life into most imminent danger.

In this state a fever seized him, attended with violent incessant purging and vomiting, having at the same time a return of bleeding to a much greater degree than ever before. Not a spoonful of any kind of nutriment would now stay in his stomach ; his pulse became almost imperceptible and intermitting, his life in all appearance of
but

but a few hours duration, and his nearest and dearest relations had taken their final leave of him as a dying person.

Under these circumstances he was truly sensible of his approaching dissolution, and talked with his physician upon it with great composure of mind, who was his particular friend, and attended him with great care, judgment, and affection, to give him all the assistance in his power as long as he lived; believing he would want it but a very short time; however, in this extremity he proposed giving him a large dose of solid opium, with some faint hopes, if it staid in his stomach, of proving the means of checking these evacuations; and four grains of this heavenly remedy, this *magnum Dei donum*, in as many pills softened in the hand, were taken in a spoonful of simple cinnamon and peppermint-water, which had the desired effect. In less than an hour he was in a profound sleep, and slept near six hours without waking; then, between sleeping and

waking, he took some nourishment which staid in his stomach, and he went to sleep again for some hours. Upon waking again more perfectly, he asked for nourishment, which also staid in his stomach, and he had no tendency to vomit or purge; but then was sensible of great irritation from coagula of blood at the neck of the bladder, as he had often been before, though not to so great a degree; and upon having recourse to the former expedient, of injecting milk and oil occasionally, a vast quantity of coagulated blood was discharged, none in a recent state.

From that time the ruptured vessel, or vessels, were so effectually closed, that not the least appearance of blood has since been seen from those parts, which is more than five years; but the patient's health suffered irreparably by the immense quantity that he had lost.

The manner of performing the injection was by a catheter, having a pipe of a large
ivory

ivory syringe shortened and well fixt into it, for want of a more commodious instrument; as a syringe with a flexible pipe fitted to it*.

A Letter, &c. communicated to me by Dr. M—y, concerning a sleepless person who lived at Madrid.

“ DEAR SIR,

	*	*	*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*	*	*	*

“ I began my inquiry into the extraordinary piece of history of the sleepless

* Mr. Clover cured a horse in a similar case by opium, when all other means had failed.

“ man

“ man here, by making a visit to my ac-
“ quaintance, *father Sarmiento*, a man of
“ the first character for learning in this
“ country. He told me all he knew of
“ this sleepless man was, his being buried
“ in that very convent where he resides,
“ and that he noted at the time the cir-
“ cumstances of his never having slept.
“ This was a lucky discovery ; for by
“ having recourse to the register of the
“ burials, which is more full and exact
“ than with us, I there found the names
“ of all his heirs, and among the rest, of
“ his brother-in-law, whom I soon found
“ out by inquiring at another convent ; in
“ short, I asked this good man every ques-
“ tion I could think of relative to this
“ curious matter.

“ I wish you may not now think my
“ account too minute, but I was willing,
“ at this distance, to obviate several doubts,
“ and to mention the life of the generality
“ of the Spaniards, though indeed of late
“ years they have lost much of their
“ sobriety :

“ sobriety: perhaps they do not sleep the
“ worse for that.

“ I wish we could have got more light
“ into this affair, but when we consider
“ that the person, *Don Andres Brizianos*,
“ died near 30 years ago, it is well we
“ have obtained so much.

“ I have only to add that I am,

“ Dear Sir,

“ Yours, &c.

“ ***** ”

“ *Madrid*,
“ *December 16, 1764.*

The

*The History of Don Andres Gonzales de
Brizianos.*

This gentleman had a very considerable employment in the revenue at Madrid. He was *Cantador de Resultas y de Juros*, offices in which the receipt and disbursements of the whole royal treasury are examined and stated, and in which an account is kept of the interest paid of the sums of money lent to the kings of Spain.

He was of a middling stature, neither fat nor lean, nor of an unhealthy complexion. He used to rise early, drink very thin chocolate without eating, and pass the whole morning in the business of his office; dine, like the Spaniards, chiefly on *soup* and *olla* at two o'clock, and never take any *siesta*. At four he had his chocolate

colate in the same manner as at breakfast ; and in the evening he walked a great deal in the town, but very leifurely.

He was fo well known in the coffee-houfes, that, without exprefs orders, the waiters ufed to bring him large glaffes of iced water, of which he ufed to drink very freely in the courfe of the day, as well as of fherbet with ice, when he went into company.

His fupper was a fallad and cucumbers, or other cold fruits and water ; for he never drank wine, nor did he fmoke tobacco, or take fnuff.

During a great many years, he had a kind of herpes, or eryfipelatous humour, on one of his legs ; from which he always felt bad effects when it dried up. He obferved that abftaining from flefh, and living chiefly upon fifh, in the early part of his life, constantly brought it out again ; but
this

this means did not succeed with him at seventy-three, when the humour retreated, affected his stomach, and killed him.

He was buried in the church of the Benedictine-convent of St. Martin, at Madrid, on the 11th of February, 1736.

In the twentieth year of his age, he married a girl of thirteen, at which age the sex are marriageable in Spain and Portugal : and it is remarkable at that time of his life he took no sleep.

His wife's brother, *Don Antonio Rodrigues Gallo*, an old gentleman of great reputation, mentioned before, whose veracity was not to be questioned, from whom I had these particulars, does not know whether he slept in the former part of his life ; he only is positive that his brother-in-law never mentioned in his hearing, this total privation of sleep, as having begun at any particular period of his life, or that he
appre-

apprehended it was caused by any fit of illness.

The utmost that he dozed was one quarter of an hour in the twenty-four, which could not properly be called sleep; for even in those moments he would readily answer whatever questions were asked him.

His wife, who was as weak and sickly as he was robust and healthy, often used to say, that at no time she had ever found him sleeping, and yet he never complained of this wakefulness as a misfortune.

He was chearful in his family; but seldom sat down in his own house. In his dying illness it was thought he slept a little. It is remarkable, that his father and mother, the former of whom was extremely lean, and his children, *Don Francisco* and *Donna Maria*, who both survived him, but since dead, were all good sleepers.

The above facts are confirmed by the testimony of some other persons of good credit still living, who knew and frequently visited him *.

* *The Reverend Father Benedict Feijoo*, a man of great learning and character, in his *Theatrum criticum universale*, says,

“ In regard to living without sleep, I have received
“ an account from a person of consequence at court,
“ that *Don Andres Gonzales Brizianos*, *Contador de*
“ *Juros*, a native of *Madrid*, who preserved himself
“ in good health till between 70 and 80 years of age,
“ either did not sleep at all, or very little, during his
“ whole life, only when he was advanced in years, he
“ used to doze for a very short space of time; but
“ even this small degree of rest approached nearer to
“ wakefulness than sleep, since he could hear every
“ word that was spoken to him in a low tone of
“ voice.”

The author adds, “ The same noble person assured
“ me, that this fact was known to the whole court at
“ *Madrid*.”

A copy

A copy of my good friend doctor Monsey's letter, giving a narrative of a very extraordinary case, from his own observation.

“ St. James's,
“ April the 20th, 1765.

“ My dear Friend,

“ I do not recollect what I said of my-
“ self in my last letter, which you say gave
“ you concern; for indeed I have lately
“ been extremely well, compared with
“ what I have suffered, and now think
“ myself happy; though I have still, now
“ and then, sensations, which I know not
“ how to describe or account for, yet I
“ do not suffer them to break in and
“ disturb the general state of my health
“ either of body or mind; but I have a

S 2

“ notion,

“ notion, that one day or other I shall be
“ suddenly knocked down, as with a canon ball, or fly in pieces like a bomb-shell. Don’t you imagine that I am repining at this imaginary catastrophe; I rather am pleased with the hope of it; it is much better than to be carried off with a stinking fever, a drivelling palsy, or a gloomy, melancholy, nervous affection of any kind: and now I talk of nerves and nervous affections, I’ll give you an history as concisely as I can, of an astonishing case, that lately came to my knowledge, and under my own notice; which I shall leave to the archbishop to christen, and begin my narration.

“ A gentleman of the law, in Serjeant’s Inn, aged about 50, and of a sanguine complexion, was seized, about ten years ago, with a paralytic affection on his left arm, after which he had severe pain on the second joint of his thumb, from thence it runs up to the middle of the
“ cubit,

“ cubit, and so on to the middle of the
 “ humerus, gradually increasing to an ex-
 “ cruciating degree, and there it stops.

“ No means have been able to remove it
 “ effectually, but a very odd one gives tem-
 “ porary relief, which is tapping him very
 “ gently just at the junction of the last
 “ vertebra of the neck with the first of
 “ the back. This is done almost inces-
 “ santly night and day, having a succession
 “ of servants for this purpose, and by this
 “ means he scarce ever sleeps.

“ I saw him first on Tuesday last ; he
 “ dismissed the tapper when I went in and
 “ called his wife to do the office, who sat
 “ beating him in this manner all the time
 “ I was with him, which was more than
 “ an hour.

“ At intervals he was seized with the
 “ most violent spasms in the jaws and
 “ borborygmi ; and once, whilst I was
 “ with him, with the most unaccountable

“ disorder upon the muscles of the larynx, I suppose, for he made such a horrid, sonorous, inarticulate jabbering as I never heard; and coming on a sudden and unexpected, it affrightened me,

“ I did but just touch his thumb, and it gave him exquisite pain, says he, a straw drawn over it is a dagger; and yet once upon my touching it pretty hard it took off the pain, as it did more than once scratching his eye-brow hard,

“ When the spasm affects his throat, and he belches forth wind, he farts with such vehemence and smartness, and with such an acute noise, as I know not how to describe it to you; but it seems to me something like the explosion of a boy's pop-gun,

“ Were I to enumerate all the oddities I observed at this visit, I should tire you and myself, too.

“ He

“ He once in his agony sent for a surgeon to cut off his arm *.

“ He has consulted a great number of
 “ physicians and surgeons of the greatest
 “ eminence, without finding the least relief from any of them: *doctor Frewin*
 “ sent him to Bath.

“ He has lately been under the care of
 “ *Dominicetti, the Venetian doctor*, who is
 “ come over to cure every body of all
 “ distempers, by sweating ; but, after three
 “ months discipline, and being immoderately sweated, with dry and wet fumigations, frictions, &c. *nibili omnia*.

“ Curiosity led me to inquire into these
 “ strange and surprising phenomena.

* In a letter which I lately received from the doctor, he says, that last summer a surgeon divided the two branches of nerves belonging to the thumb, but without benefit.

“ He begged of me to try something,
“ but I had no courage, spirit or hopes.

“ He has taken all the nervous tribe of
“ medicines over and over again ; however,
“ not to appear inhuman to so wretched a
“ being, after telling him I knew not what
“ would or would not do him good, as
“ soon as I returned home I sent him a
“ bottle of rattle-snake wine to take a
“ glass of frequently.

“ Upon my taking leave of him, he
“ told me he had not closed his eyes for
“ eight nights successively.

“ Last night, the third since I visited
“ him, as I was sitting by my fireside, in
“ walked my patient to my great surprize ;
“ which he observing ; Sir, says he, you
“ cannot be so much amazed as I am, nor
“ half so much pleased ; I am come to
“ thank you, and if not criminal, to wor-
“ ship you.

“ Well,

“ Well, Sir, said I, but I thought you
 “ could not bear a coach nor a chair : I
 “ cannot, answered he, I came walking,
 “ and have left my friends and neighbours
 “ in the greatest astonishment. Sir ! this
 “ change surely cannot proceed from my
 “ medicine ; it seems to me almost im-
 “ possible. Sir ! it is true for all that,
 “ replied he, and I have not had one tap
 “ all this whole day, and am in a manner
 “ free from pain. Sir ! said I, don’t hal-
 “ loo, we are not yet out of the wood.
 “ Indeed, Sir, says he, I am at present,
 “ but God knows how soon I may be in
 “ again. When your surprise is over, and
 “ your mind settled after your walk, I’ll
 “ feel your pulse ; I did so, and from a
 “ quick and irregular one, which I ob-
 “ served when I visited him at his own
 “ house, I found it regular, even, and
 “ strong enough. This began to demolish
 “ my infidelity, and to give me some opi-
 “ nion of my rattle-snake wine.

“ After

“ After fitting an hour with me, free
“ from pain, and without his man patting
“ him once, I asked him to go home in a
“ chair. Sir, says he, a chair murders
“ me, unless the fellows would carry their
“ poles short, and give me no swing or
“ dancing, and that they will not do; so
“ away he went on foot in great spirits.

“ I called upon him the day after this
“ dialogue, and he told me he walked
“ from my apartment, at lord Godolphin's,
“ home with great ease, where he met an
“ assembly of friends, expecting his re-
“ turn, wondering at what they had heard
“ and then saw.

“ He told me he believed his night
“ was not quite so good as it might have
“ been, had not his friends kept him up
“ too late to rejoice with him on this
“ happy event; yet this day he said he
“ had found himself stronger than usual,
“ and had been at Lincoln's-Inn-Hall to

“ present a petition to my lord Chancellor:
 “ however, notwithstanding these halcyon-
 “ days, this fair sun-shine of comfortable
 “ hope, I am afraid clouds and storms will
 “ arise, and make this poor gentleman
 “ again the most miserable of beings.

“ What happens farther you shall
 “ know ; and if you will now tell me
 “ where the cause of this disorder lies,
 “ *Eris mihi magnus Apollo.*

“ I long to see you, and talk with you
 “ about many things ; for believe me ever

“ Yours, very affectionately,

“ M. MONSEY.”

The doctor's problem is too hard for
 me to solve ; but we have many instances,
 both ancient and modern, where different
 parts of the encephalon being affected,
 have produced diseases accompanied with
 symptoms

symptoms not declarative of their nature, nor the sources from whence they sprung, or to be accounted for by those of the greatest penetration and discernment, so as to characterize them by specific and determinate appellations.

We have pertinent and recent instances in this kingdom; one in the case of a nobleman, which was attended with a variety of symptoms denominated nervous, whose greatest complaint was in his stomach, proceeding from no other evident cause, discovered after his death, by an accurate dissection, than a stone lodged in the pineal gland,

Another great personage, after labouring some years under a great variety also of nervous symptoms, complained particularly of a violent pain of his arm, beginning at his fingers ends, frequently returning, and gradually ascending, and when advanced as far as where the deltoid muscle is inserted into the bone, then became so excruciating

ciating as to make him wish, with great earnestness, to have his limb taken off.

This nobleman died under paralytic symptoms, expiring in convulsions.

Upon opening his head, two small encysted tumours were found upon his brain, on the opposite side to the affected limb, and no where else any thing preternatural*.

These accounts I was favoured with from the surgeons concerned in opening the bodies.

A few years ago I was desired to open the body of a young gentleman of a noble family, who had an anomalous fever, attended with nervous symptoms, which perplexed the judgment of an old and

* See Vol. I. in the introduction, under the character of *Cassius*; and in the chapter concerning injuries the *encephalon* is liable to.

experienced physician, of great sagacity, who could not characterize it by any particular name to his own satisfaction, as he often told me during his attendance; but I never saw the patient in his life-time.

In this case, upon a very careful and attentive dissection, we discovered nothing amiss, only a turgescence of the vessels running upon the plicatures of the pia mater, and a considerable quantity of a lymphatic fluid in the ventricles of the brain *.

In the year 1760, I visited a person in a kind of fever, that I knew not what class to place under, attended with a shaking of the head, and a kind of emprosthotonos; and he told me he had been subject to these disorders, in a less degree, for several years, and sometimes to be vertiginous, and fall down deprived of his

* See what relates to the hydrocephalus, &c. in Vol. II.

senses for a short duration ; and that he was never entirely free from a pain of his head. Upon any brisk exercise he used to become giddy, which symptom went off immediately upon resting himself.

In this disease he suffered inexpressibly for some months, and then died in the greatest agonies, and strong convulsions.

Upon opening his head, several osseous points were found rising considerably above the internal surface of the scull, partly upon the right *os parietale*, and partly upon the adjoining *os occipitis*, which irritated the *dura mater* ; and this membrane was in an inflamed state, beginning to mortify.

To this purpose read the illustrious Van Swieten's Commentaries upon Boerhaave's Aphorisms, § 1075*.

When

* *Corn. Stalpart Vander Wiel* mentions the case of a stone, which was found in the *pineal gland* of a woman,

When doctor Monfey informed the gentleman, who is the subject of this letter, that it was rattle-snake wine he had given him, he sent directly to a friend in the West

woman, who was dissected in his brother's anatomical theatre at the *Hague*. Vid. Ob. 12, Tom. 1.

In the Philosophical Transactions for the year 1686, is recorded a memorable case of this nature, in a very circumstantial manner, in respect to the symptoms it produced; and for the singularity of it, it was taken into the *Acta Eruditorum publicata Lipsiæ*, anno 1688.

Kerckringius gives an account of a stone like a filbert, that was found in the right ventricle of the brain, with a figure of it, describing the symptoms which attended the case, and the state the brain appeared in upon dissection.

Vid. Schenkii Observationem in Dolore Capitis ex Lapidibus in Cerebro repertis.

Hildanus, and many other eminent and authentic observers, who may be consulted, mention stony concretions, &c. having been found in the brain, &c. with the symptoms attending such cases.

Bonetus, in his *Anatomia Practica*, has collected many cases to this purpose; and Lib. 1. de Capitis Affectibus,

West-Indies, where it is drunk as the highest cordial, desiring he would send him a large quantity, and also some rattlesnakes, where they are found in great plenty: and before this occurrence, having had the following relation transmitted to him from thence, and well authenticated by his friend, he conceived the greater hopes and expectations of the efficacy of this medicine, as previous to his own most dreadful and unprecedented disorder, he had been subject to a violent cutaneous disease, something of a leprous nature; and gave the doctor the following history, which he communicated to me by letter.

A very wealthy old gentleman in that country, had long been afflicted with the

Affectibus, in his *Medicina Septentrionalis Collatitia*, is well worth attentive perusal on this account.

Stoney concretions have been observed in almost every part of the body, particularly in the glandular parts; in many I have found them, as in the glands of the breast, the maxillary, sublingual, &c.

leprosy to an high degree, which was deemed incurable by his physicians.

Apparently in a dying state he made his will, and left a large legacy to a female servant, who had lived with him many years.

This circumstance being known to her, she and her lover, by the instigation of the devil, studied and contrived how to make away with him, in such a manner as to raise the least suspicion of their wickedness. They put the heads of rattle-snakes into wine, and gave him it to drink, thinking it would prove an infallible poison; but as he grew better upon taking it, they, happily for him, falsely concluded they had not made it strong enough, then made it stronger; and, by drinking this intended poison, he was restored to perfect health*.

Com-

* *Galen, Aretæus*, and other of the ancients, recommended eating vipers, sometimes dressed like eels, in the *elephantiasis*.—*Dampier* says, that the natives
of

Compunction of conscience put this unfaithful and wicked servant upon falling on her knees before her master, imploring his mercy; and, in tears, confessing her atrocious crime. He not only forgave her, but gave her a sum of money, ordering her to depart his house directly and never see him more.

of *Tonquin*, in the *East Indies*, treat their friends with arrack, in which snakes and scorpions have been infused, esteeming it not only a great cordial, but also an efficacious remedy in the Leprosy, and an antidote against poison.

When *Cato* marched *Pompey's* shattered army thro' *Africa*, he encouraged the intimidated soldiers to quench their thirst at a spring without fear, though they saw the water full of serpents, as *Lucan* relates in his *Pharsalia*, Lib. ix.

Noxia serpentum est admisto sanguine pestis,
Morsu virus habent & fatum dente minantur,
Pocula morte carent ———

Account of a puncture through the scull, attended with very singular circumstances.

As I passed through Halesworth in my way into Norfolk, on June the 6th, 1773, Mrs. Nursey, a tradesman's wife, stopped me in the street and asked my opinion about her child's case, in which, though she described it very imperfectly, I apprehended there was some great latent mischief; consequently, as the surgeon, who lived in the town, was not at home, for us to see the child together, I only most earnestly desired the mother to have her child's head very strictly examined, as soon as possible, by him; and if she thought proper, for her farther satisfaction, to have the physician of the place present, who was well acquainted with surgery.

Upon this occasion I received the following letter from the surgeon, a judicious
man

man in his profession, authenticated by the physician.

Halesworth, *July* the 26th, 1773.

“ DEAR SIR,

“ I send you the following very singular
 “ case, which we had not an opportunity
 “ of examining together, when Mrs.
 “ Nursey asked your opinion about it,
 “ thinking it may not be altogether un-
 “ worthy a place in your intended collec-
 “ tion, which you are about favouring the
 “ public with.

“ On May the 16th, 1773, I was called
 “ to a child of Mr. Nursey's, about four
 “ years old, when she was lately recovered
 “ of a fever which terminated by an ab-
 “ scess in the axilla. She had also at
 “ times been subject to worms; had now
 “ febrile symptoms, and complained of
 “ sickness and pain in her bowels, which,
 “ I apprehended, proceeded from worms,

T 3

“ and

“ and treated her accordingly, by which
“ means one more was brought away.

“ On the 30th she made great com-
“ plaint of her head, and was drowsy, with
“ a quick low pulse.

“ Blistering was proposed, but rejected
“ by the too timorous indulgent mother;
“ nor could the child now be prevailed
“ upon to take any kind of medicine, except
“ now and then a purge.

“ On the third of Juue her mother in-
“ formed me there was a considerable dis-
“ charge from a very small orifice over the
“ right eye, but then she refused to have
“ it examined; she recollected, however,
“ that more than a month before, the child
“ came crying to her with a pair of small
“ sharp-pointed scissars in her hand, and
“ that she observed a little spot of blood
“ upon the part whence the discharge now
“ proceeded; but it appeared so trifling as
“ to be disregarded.

“ The

“ The discharge now seemed purely
“ lymphatic, and was daily increasing so
“ as to wet several handkerchiefs in a day
“ and night ; but upon this discharge the
“ child became more lively.

“ June the seventh, the day after your
“ conversation with Mrs. Nursey, Dr.
“ D'Urban was called in, when she con-
“ sented to have the part examined ; and
“ we found a very small orifice or puncture
“ like the bite of a leech, about an inch
“ above the arch of the orbit of the eye,
“ towards the external canthus.

“ In our examination the child lay in
“ an horizontal posture on her mother's
“ lap ; the probe passed, without the least
“ resistance, directly forwards through the
“ scalp and cranium also more than two
“ inches, and without doubt might have
“ been passed farther, had we not been
“ fearful of injuring the parts.

“ With the doctor’s approbation I now
“ removed a small portion of the scalp
“ round the orifice to facilitate the dis-
“ charge, &c. and we then saw the aperture
“ through the cranium. The wound was
“ dressed in an easy manner, using a very
“ slight bandage ; and the purging medi-
“ cine was repeated more frequently, with
“ a view of making a diversion by the
“ bowels, in order to lessen the discharge
“ from the encephalon, &c. This dis-
“ charge flowed constantly and uniformly
“ at the rate of a dram, or more, every five
“ minutes, into a silver spoon : it tasted
“ like the tears, and was transparent. A
“ spoonful of this fluid, evaporated over a
“ candle, did not inspissate like lymph,
“ with heat, nor leave any residuum, ex-
“ cept a very small saline substance in the
“ spoon. The effusion continued in this
“ quantity for several days, which was at
“ the rate of 36 ounces in 24 hours ; the
“ purging medicine was often repeated till
“ the 15th, when the discharge seemed
“ quite stopped, and the child apparently,
“ though

“ though very weak, in a state of recovery;
 “ and then the purging medicine was re-
 “ peated at longer intervals.

“ Now the mother of the child ac-
 “ quainted us with what she should by no
 “ means have concealed; that on Sunday,
 “ May the 9th, a watery fluid, perfectly
 “ transparent, was first observed to come
 “ trickling from above the eyebrow down
 “ the side of the cheek; that on Wednes-
 “ day the 12th, the child lay in a stupid,
 “ lethargic state, apparently dying; that
 “ next day, at three or four o'clock in the
 “ morning, a stream of transparent water
 “ spurted out several inches high, from the
 “ spot thought to have been wounded with
 “ the point of the scissars; and this little
 “ jet d' eau, or stream of water, supported
 “ the arch it first formed for about 10 mi-
 “ nutes*, and almost immediately after
 “ this the child perfectly awaked from its

* How this phænomenon was produced is left to
 the consideration of more penetrating judges.

“ sleepi-

“ sleepiness and stupor. It was also observed by the mother, and others then present, that this fluid changed the colour of a purple silk handkerchief to a bright red.

“ On the 24th our patient was so well as to ride on horseback with her father; but in the evening of that day, she complained again of her head, and had some transient convulsive motions.

“ Next morning I visited her; she then appeared brisk and lively, without any spasmodic affections, and took her usual dose of the laxative.

“ At five or six in the evening of this day, I was sent for in great haste, as those about the child thought her actually dying; I found her indeed deprived of all sense and voluntary motion, and in strong convulsions, in which the muscles of the eyes, face, arms, and hands were
“ prin-

“ principally affected ; and in this dreadful
“ state, I was informed, she had been ever
“ since three in the afternoon.

“ I instantly dispatched a messenger for
“ the doctor, requesting his immediate at-
“ tendance ; he came accordingly, and or-
“ dered the child to be bled directly.

“ These most alarming and threatening
“ symptoms still continuing, we then
“ urged in the strongest terms we could to
“ the parents, &c. enforced by the con-
“ current opinion of another surgeon now
“ called in, to have a perforation made in
“ the scull forthwith, as the only rational
“ means left, in our unanimous opinion, to
“ preserve the child's life, though that
“ carried but little probability of success.
“ This operation was objected to at first,
“ particularly by the mother, but soon
“ complied with, and then immediately
“ performed, including the puncture of the
“ cranium, within the crown of the tre-
“ phine ;

“ phine *; but no discharge of the aqueous
“ kind followed the operation. The dura
“ mater did not appear discoloured; but in
“ the agonizing cries of the patient it arose
“ with great force, and was at least pro-
“ pelled one-third of a sphere through the
“ perforation. In this state we made an
“ incision, with a lancet, through that
“ membrane; but no other discharge en-
“ sued than a little blood, which made us
“ the more despair of success, especially as
“ the symptoms continued so violent, that
“ in short we all thought our patient ab-
“ solutely expiring: however, under these
“ dreadful circumstances a stimulating
“ clyster was given, which procured two
“ stools in about an hour, upon which the
“ alarming symptoms began to remit, and
“ the child became sensible: in a few
“ hours the convulsions, in a great measure,

* Upon an attentive examination of the circular piece of the scull after the removal of it, the orifice made with the scissars was found entirely closed, with a very thin diaphanous ossification,

“ went

“ went off; then she called for small-beer
 “ and passed a tolerable night.

“ Twenty-sixth, the child continued
 “ sensible, yet had several slight returns of
 “ convulsions and a restless night. She
 “ could not be prevailed upon to take any
 “ medicines; but the injection was repeated
 “ with a good effect.

“ Twenty-seventh, continued restless,
 “ and somewhat confused, till the evening:
 “ about seven or eight o'clock she fell
 “ asleep; slept comfortably three or four
 “ hours; awaked refreshed, and seemed
 “ better in every respect.

“ Twenty-eighth, an appearance of di-
 “ gestion in the wound; no aqueous dis-
 “ charge from the aperture; no new
 “ threatening symptoms: she slept quietly
 “ in the night, but awaked in some con-
 “ fusion, which soon went off.

“ Twenty-ninth, a good appearance in
“ the wound; symptoms favourable;
“ bowels kept in proper order with the
“ laxative.

“ Till July the 9th all things went on
“ favourably, when near a tea-cup full
“ of purulent matter was discharged
“ through the aperture, without any re-
“ markable symptoms preceding this dis-
“ charge.

“ On the 12th there appeared a very
“ great protrusion of the dura mater, &c.
“ through the aperture, as you have de-
“ scribed in your observations, which was
“ effectually suppressed by the perforated
“ plate of lead you there recommend,
“ without any disagreeable consequence
“ from the use of it. This protrusion we
“ found was much increased by the violent
“ efforts the child made sometimes in
“ crying, at the time of dressing.

“ At

“ At the time of writing this letter the
 “ child enjoys its senses perfectly, appears
 “ in good health, and the wound in a good
 “ condition.

“ I have endeavoured, with doctor
 “ D’Urban’s assistance, to give you as
 “ clear a description of this very extraor-
 “ dinary case as I possibly could, and I
 “ hope the history, as well as the treat-
 “ ment of it, will meet with your appro-
 “ bation. I am with the greatest respect
 “ and esteem,

Sir,

your most obliged

humble servant,

JOHN REVANS.”

The

The history which Mr. Revans has given of Mr. Nursey's child's case corresponds with my minutes and observations, from June the 7th to July the 26th, 1773.

J. D'URBAN, M.D.

On July the 30th, I visited the child with doctor D'Urban and Mr. Revans, and the circumstances of the case were confirmed to me by Mrs. Nursey and others, whom I interrogated particularly concerning it. I found the child perfect in its senses, apparently in good health and very chearful. The wound had a good aspect, the rising of the exfoliation of the bone round the perforation, made bare upon scalping, was as thin as the finest scale of a fish, and so transparent that we could see the granulations of flesh through it, rising to throw it off. I have also carefully examined the piece of bone taken out upon trepanning, and find the hole
made

made with the scissars closed with the officiation as has been described *.

A letter from the late Mr. Lynn, surgeon, of Woodbridge, who was a man of a very respectable character both in and out of his profession, and a practitioner between 40 and 50 years in the highest repute.

Woodbridge,
March the 8th, 1773.

“ MY DEAR FRIEND,

“ I postponed answering your last kind
“ letter, till I should be properly furnished

* The happy event of this very singular case should encourage us to persevere resolutely in all rational means and endeavours, under the most threatening circumstances, and not to be intimidated through fear of censure should we not succeed. Had these gentlemen been so influenced, their patient would certainly have been lost.

VOL. III.

U

“ with

“ with materials relative to an extraordinary case, which I think worthy of your
“ and doctor D’Urban’s notice.

“ A gentlewoman of a pretty good constitution, forty-two years of age, was supposed to become pregnant about September, 1770, and went on in a regular manner, except having some return of the
“ *menfes* at irregular periods. About the
“ seventh month, for she could not be
“ exact to time, she thought the child died,
“ as from that time she felt no motion of
“ it. Soon after this event she was seized
“ with pains, indicating approaching labour, which returned at several different
“ times before they left her. Her bigness
“ then continued, and she was carefully
“ examined by two experienced surgeons
“ and practitioners in midwifery, who
“ were unanimously of opinion that there
“ was a foetus in utero, but that she had
“ not gone her full time.

“ In

“ In this state she remained seven
 “ months, when she was advised to consult
 “ doctor H——y, a Physician of eminence
 “ and an accoucheur, who, after examin-
 “ ing into the state of the case with the
 “ utmost attention, confirmed the other
 “ gentlemen’s opinions. Now the event
 “ of the case was left to nature, and the
 “ patient seemed determined to take no far-
 “ ther advice ; but in November last she
 “ was prevailed upon to take Dr. G—th’s
 “ opinion, who had been one of the most
 “ experienced and judicious practitioners in
 “ midwifery in London, retired from bu-
 “ siness some years to Col——r, under
 “ whose care she continued some weeks :
 “ and as she was a relation of my wife’s
 “ and I having some acquaintance with
 “ the doctor, I wrote to him requesting his
 “ sentiments, which he readily sent me.
 “ He said he was confident it was a scirrhus
 “ *ovarium*, which had deceived the gen-
 “ tlemen who had been consulted ; adding
 “ that he had seen many similar cases,
 “ where the tumours, upon opening the

“ patients after death, were found to consist of a fleshy substance with cells therein, containing an aqueous bloody fluid, resembling hydatides. Some of these tumours which he had observed, he said, were attended with great pain, increasing to an enormous size; but when unattended with pain, and slow in their progress, the patients frequently lived some years. This gentleman also says he does not wonder that such a case should be taken for pregnancy, though the *menfes* are not obstructed at the beginning.

“ After I had received Dr. G——th’s letter, Dr. H——y called upon me, and I showed him it, which surprized him but did not alter his opinion; and he still seems to be very positive, that there is a foetus in utero; making these remarks, that were the case a diseased *ovarium* the tumour would not be felt as if in utero; but in a lateral situation, and that it would not have made such a rapid progress.

“ As

“ As she continues strong and in good
 “ spirits, is it not reasonable to suppose,
 “ that nature should have made farther
 “ efforts for the expulsion, admitting it to
 “ be a foetus in utero? I have lately read
 “ in Van Swieten’s Commentaries, of a
 “ woman who was delivered of a child in
 “ the 35th month, that lived three days.

“ I hear this patient is now determined
 “ to go to London, in order to take Dr.
 “ Hunter’s or Dr. Mackenzie’s opinion.
 “ I shall be very much obliged to you and
 “ Dr. D’Urban, for your sentiments upon
 “ this curious and at present obscure and
 “ intricate case, in which the doctors differ;
 “ and what occurs farther relative to it you
 “ shall be acquainted with by,

“ Dear Sir,

“ Your sincere friend

“ and much obliged

“ humble servant,

“ JAMES LYNN.”

Answer to Mr. Lynn's letter.

Halesworth,
March the 12th, 1773.

“ MY DEAR FRIEND,

“ At your desire Dr. D'Urban and I
“ have attentively read and considered the
“ extraordinary case you transmitted to us;
“ but to offer our opinions upon it in any
“ peremptory manner, would be too pre-
“ suming, and might justly incur censure,
“ after eminent and experienced practiti-
“ oners have delivered theirs, founded upon
“ a strict and attentive examination of the
“ patient: however, we venture to pro-
“ pound this question, with a few cursory
“ remarks, for your deliberate considera-
“ tion.

“ May

“ May it not be an extrauterine foetus,
 “ broken into the abdominal cavity, or still
 “ lodged in the *ovarium* or *fallopian tube*
 “ gradually distended, the impregnated *ovum*
 “ never having descended from the *ovarium*
 “ through the tube, in its natural course
 “ into the uterus? We have many per-
 “ tinent cases recorded by authentic obser-
 “ vators; as *Hildanus*, *Alexander Benedic-*
 “ *tus*, *Buissiere*, *Courtial* and others, ancient
 “ and modern; but in what *Monf. Simon*
 “ has said in his *Memoirs* upon the *Cæsa-*
 “ *rian Operation* in the *Mem. de l’Acad.*
 “ *Roy. de Chirurgie*, Tom. II. more is to
 “ be found to elucidate the doubtful matter
 “ now in question, than any where else
 “ that we know. He therein takes parti-
 “ cular notice of ventral conceptions and
 “ those in the ovaria and tub. fallop. with
 “ demonstrative dissections.

“ The circumstances of Sarah Laste’s
 “ case, of Debenham in your county, you
 “ will recollect, the history of which,
 “ as I remember, was drawn up and com-

“ municated to the Royal Society, by your
“ ingenious relation, Mr. Rodbord, who
“ was then a practitioner in that town, now
“ at Ipswich. My curiosity carried me to
“ visit this woman, and I had my inquiry
“ fully satisfied, by an examination of her
“ body, and a circumstantial account of her
“ case, from herself and Mr. Debenham,
“ who was her surgeon upon that occasion,
“ as I was informed, and also lived then in
“ the same town as well as Mr. Rodbord.
“ According to the minutes I made, among
“ other circumstances, she said, that at the
“ expiration of the seventh month, she had
“ signs of approaching labour, which went
“ off in a few days, and that about a year
“ after an inflammatory tumour arose at the
“ navel, where the fœtus was extracted
“ piecemeal, after sufficiently enlarging the
“ spontaneous opening *.

“ Our

* See Cyprianus's Letter to Sir Thomas Millington upon this subject, published at the end of Belloste's Hospital Surgeon, Vol. I. printed in French, at Amsterdam, in 1707; and separately in Latin, at Leyden, in

“ Our brother Garneys of Yoxford, since
 “ I mentioned this case in my Treatise on
 “ Wounds, told me, to his certain know-
 “ ledge, that this woman conceived again
 “ some years after, and was delivered at
 “ the completion of the usual term of an
 “ healthy child, without difficulty or any
 “ uncommon occurrence; but that she
 “ then died in childbed, and her body
 “ was not opened, as it should have been,
 “ in order to inspect the state of the parts
 “ under the former circumstances, &c.

“ We have, indeed, histories upon record,
 “ of children having been born alive in the
 “ 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th
 “ month, in *Varro*, *Pliny*, *Aristotle*, *Aulus*
 “ *Gellius*, *Avicenna*, *Cardanus*, *Alexander*
 “ *Benedictus*, *Horatius Augenius*, *Spigelius*

in 1700. Also see a case to this purpose in the Lon-
 don Med. Obs. and Inq. Vol. II. p. 369: and another
 of a singular nature, in Vol. III. Art. 33, of an extra-
 uterine foetus, with the placenta in the uterus, commu-
 nicated by Mr. Key, a very ingenious surgeon of the
 Leeds hospital.

“ and

“ and other writers of good authority. The
“ great Bochart who was a striking orna-
“ ment of the French nation, mentions, in
“ a letter to Carbonelle, counsellor and se-
“ cretary to one of the kings of France, a
“ birth in the 18th month. Though
“ what Dr. H——y takes notice of in
“ respect to the situation, appearance of
“ the tumour upon the abdomen, &c.
“ when it proceeds from a diseased *ovarium*
“ is truly characteristic, as I well know
“ from my own observations; yet neither
“ from his remarks, nor any thing else we
“ observe in your letter, can it, we think, be
“ concluded that the case under consider-
“ ation is not an extrauterine fœtus; time
“ must bring this obscure and doubtful
“ matter to light.

“ Dr. D'Urban tells me, that Dr.
“ Donald Monro and he opened a woman
“ whose case resembled what Dr. Grif—th
“ mentions in his letter to you, who would
“ not be convinced she was not with child;
“ saying she was frequently sensible of its
“ violent

“ violent motions ; but from their strict
“ and accurate examination in her lifetime,
“ they attributed the sensations she de-
“ scribed to nervous irritations, and not to
“ pregnancy : and in this case there was
“ also a contrariety of opinions, in those
“ who, from time to time, were consulted.

“ Should what I have written upon this
“ subject prove, in any manner, useful or
“ satisfactory, it will give us real pleasure,
“ who wish to know the event of the case,
“ or what occurs in it worthy notice ; and

“ I am,

“ My good friend,

“ yours very cordially,

“ B. GOOCH.”

Mr.

*Mr. Lynn's second letter upon the same
subject.*

Woodbridge,
April the 27th, 1773.

“ MY DEAR FRIEND,

“ I am much obliged to you and Dr.
“ D'Urban for your very curious and ac-
“ curate remarks on the case mentioned in
“ my last, which I should have acknow-
“ ledged sooner, only waited for some far-
“ ther intelligence relative to it, which I
“ lately received from a friend who was
“ present when Dr. Hunter examined the
“ patient in London. His opinion cor-
“ roborates yours and Dr. D'Urban's; he
“ seems positive that the tumour is extra-
“ uterine, thinks that there may be a diseased
“ *ovarium*, and that the uterus may be
“ thickened, and that probably there is an
extra-

“ extrauterine foetus; but, after deliberately
 “ considering every circumstance, could
 “ not undertake to speak with precision to
 “ the nature of the case, which time alone
 “ must discover; and, for want of proper
 “ indications, knew not what method to
 “ direct, only to observe the proper and
 “ necessary rules in respect to her health in
 “ general.

“ As to my own complaints, I have
 “ great reason to be satisfied under the relief
 “ I find from your kind and friendly ad-
 “ vice and attention to them; for which I
 “ return you my most hearty thanks; and
 “ am,

“ Dear sir,

“ Your sincere friend

“ and much obliged servant,

“ JAMES LYNN.”

In

In April 1775, I made my very worthy friend, Mr. Lynn, a visit, upon his being attacked with a new complaint, and was then informed, the gentlewoman, whose case is related in the preceding letters, remained in the same state, without any material alteration, still able to walk about after her family affairs.

A letter from Mr. Edgar of Harleston, an ingenious and well-educated surgeon, concerning two remarkable occurrences.

Harleston,

March the 18th, 1775.

“ DEAR SIR,

“ At your desire I now send you the
“ two remarkable cases I mentioned, when
“ we met in consultation for Mrs. Wood-
“ cock, who, I have the pleasure to inform
“ you, is much relieved, by the method we
“ agreed

“ agreed upon for her to follow with perseverance.

“ The first is an instance of singular
“ irritability of the nerves, remaining after
“ all sensation of the animal is apparently
“ abolished.

“ A favourite dog of my own had one
“ of the vertebræ of his back dislocated, by
“ the kick of a horse, which instantane-
“ ously deprived him of all sensation and
“ motion below the injured part. I was
“ very desirous of seeing how long he
“ might live after this accident, though
“ there was no prospect of his being cured,
“ only to observe what other consequences
“ might arise. For eight or ten days he
“ ate as usual, and moved about, dragging
“ his hinder parts after him as a dead
“ weight. Then I ordered him to be
“ shot; and after he had been, in all ap-
“ pearance, dead some time, but not quite
“ cold, I dissected down to the part affected,
“ and found the last of the dorsal vertebræ
“ dislocated;

“ dislocated; and, in consequence, there
“ was an elongation of the medulla spinalis,
“ which also appeared a little contused.
“ The striking circumstance I at first al-
“ luded to was this: while I was tracing
“ the femoral artery upon another account
“ with my dissecting knife, the dog’s leg
“ was suddenly drawn up, with a quick
“ and sudden motion very forcibly to the
“ side of his body. This phænomenon at
“ first surprized me, but it soon occurred
“ to me, that I might have wounded the
“ nerve; and on examination I found I had
“ nearly divided it; still I thought the
“ effect remarkable, and was desirous of
“ knowing, if the same effect would be
“ produced by the same cause upon the
“ other limb, accordingly it proved so in
“ fact.

“ This seems to be a clear proof that
“ the nerves are subject to great irritabi-
“ lity, by exciting strong and numerous
“ muscles into action, after all sense and
“ life of the animal were visibly destroyed.

“ Whether

" Whether this accidental experiment
 " and discovery may prove of any practical
 " use I know not; but leave the abstruse
 " subject of nervous influence, for curious
 " speculators and theorists to consider, who
 " have written upon it, to determine, if
 " they can, in so nice a point.

" The other communication which I
 " thought not unworthy notice, was the
 " case of a person in this town, who, for
 " fourteen years, had a regular menstrual
 " discharge of blood from the hæmorrhoi-
 " dal veins, to the quantity of three or
 " four ounces. As soon as this salutary
 " evacuation ceased, which happened about
 " six weeks before the patient's death, he
 " complained of difficulty of breathing,
 " had symptoms of an hepatic disorder and
 " died dropfical. Though cases something
 " of this nature have often been observed,
 " yet I never read of, or saw so striking an
 " instance of the salutary effects of such a
 " periodical discharge.

“ I am much obliged to you for communicating to me the experiment you have lately made, with remarks thereupon, which is well worth public notice, as it may prove of real practical use, in a matter of great consequence to be ascertained in surgery.

“ I am, with great respect and esteem,

“ Dear sir,

“ Your much obliged

“ humble servant,

“ DEV. EDGAR.”



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I N D E X.

N. B. The volumes are distinguished by Roman Capitals preceding the Figures of Reference to the Pages.

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